DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 123 993

HE 007 796

AUTHOR TITLE

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A Survey of Lenders in the Guaranteed Student Loan

Program.

INSTITUTION SPONS AGENCY

Resource Management Corp., Bethesda, Md.

Office of Education (DHEW), Washington, D.C. Office

of Planning, Budgeting, and Evaluation.

REPORT NO RMC-UR-299
PUB DATE Dec 75

NOTE 206p.

EDRS PRICE DESCRIPTORS

MF-\$0.83 HC-\$11.37 Plus Postage.

*Banking; *Educational Finance; *Higher Education;

Operating Expenses; Program Costs; Program

Descriptions; Program Evaluation; Risk; *Student Loan

Programs; Surveys

ABSTRACT

The Guaranteed Student Loan Program, authorized by the 1965 Higher Education Act (Title IV-B) is intended to provide students with a means of financing part of the cost of education. The principal of the loan is provided by commercial lending institutions or state lending agencies. An increasing number of issues have surfaced regarding the program as a whole and certain specific aspects of it: (1) federal costs have increased steadily; (2) the extent of future federal liability implicit in new or issues loans is. not precisely known; (3) default rates have increased to a level far beyond those that had been expected; (4) because lenders are reducing or eliminating their financial participation, it is not clear that, GSLP can fulfill its objective of providing a major part of the financial assistance to college students; and (5) the program's social efficiency and equity are questioned by the high default rate for certain demographic groups and types of schools. Two questionnaires were developed, one concerning individual borrowers and one concerning lenders. Data collected add considerably to the limited base of knowledge about the student/lender process. (Author/KE)

RMC Research Corporation

Report UR-299

A SURVEY OF LENDERS IN THE GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

Kenneth F. Gordon, Project Director Michael Errecart

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Prepared for

Office of Planning, Budgeting, and Evaluation Office of Education Department of Health, Education, and Welfare



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SUMMARY

The Guaranteed Student Loan Program, authorized by the 1965 Higher Education Act (Title IV-B), is intended to provide students with a means of financing part of the cost of education. It works toward equalizing educational opportunity by helping students overcome financial barriers. The principal of the loan is provided by commercial lending institutions or state lending agencies.

Federal operations began in FY 68, with rapidly increasing levels of funding each year since. By the end of FY 75, it is expected that loan disbursements in the program will total \$7 billion, with more than \$1.1 billion having been disbursed in FY 75 alone. These loans have been made by approximately 19,000 lenders to over six million students in 8,200 educational institutions. Among the institutions whose students are eligible for loans are traditional two-year and four-year colleges, as well as specialized and vocational (proprietary) schools. The latter sector has increased its participation most rapidly from \$2.9 million in FY 68 to \$218.2 million in FY 73. For this and other reasons, the Office of Education has required funds beyond those originally anticipated for payment of its GSLP obligations for each of the last several years.

In recent years, an increasing number of issues have surfaced regarding the program as a whole and certain specific aspects of it:

- Federal costs have increased steadily.
- The extent of future federal liability implicit in new or issued loans is not precisely known.
- Default rates have increased to a level far beyond those that had been expected.

- Because lenders are reducing or eliminating their financial participation, it is not clear that GSLP can fulfill its objective of providing a major part of the financial assistance to college students.
- The program's social efficiency and equity are questioned by the high default rate for certain demographic groups and types of schools.

Even though large data files are maintained on all GSLP loans, these issues were not readily addressed by existing data for two reasons: (1) much of the data needed to address the issues of current importance are not routinely collected, and (2) the quality of data in existing files is questionable. As part of a program to close the data gap and provide clear answers to these questions, the Office of Planning, Budgeting, and Evaluation (OPBE) contracted REC Research to survey and analyze new data relating to a representative sample of GSLP lenders and borrowers. The survey was to focus on repayment details, default status, lender procedures, and lender attitudes. This research was also to validate certain items in the existing data base and to obtain specific data needed to further quantify and expand the Loan Estimation Model being developed under a separate contract.

Two closely interrelated surveys, one of lenders and one of borrowers, were required to fulfill these general objectives. The specific objectives of each are distinct. For the lenders survey they are as follows:

- (1) to expand on the information lenders currently report to the Office of Education, particularly for data needed on a one-time basis for OE's Loan Estimation Model;
- (2) to determine lender experience with loan defaults that will be used both to validate the OE file data and to assess certain qualitative aspects of the loan portfolio;
- (3) to determine some of the important procedures relating to lender administration of guaranteed loans--that is; the approval, servicing, and collection of such loans;
- (4) to estimate some of the primary costs associated with the administration of guaranteed loans;
- (5) to determine some of the opinions, viewpoints, and more formal policies that constitute lender response to the structural and administrative requirements of the GSL program; and
- (6) to determine certain aspects of borrower repayment experience with lenders, including the setting of repayment terms and amount of monthly payments.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design for this study reflects the primary interest in GSLP repayment and default processes. The population of interest consists of borrowers who had obtained federally guaranteed loans, including state guarantee agency loans, and who had one or more loans converted into repayment. Since lending institution practices, policies, and procedures and borrower behavior are key issues of this study, two types of data were required: (1) data on classes of lending institutions, and (2) data about classes of borrowers who are, or have been, in repayment status.

This research design led to the need for a representative sample of GSLP lending institutions and a representative sample of GSLP borrowers who had reached or completed the repayment stage. Mail questionnaires were designed and sent to sample lenders. Included were a Part I, covering aggregate institutional operations, and a separate Part II, covering the behavior of each sample borrower associated with that lender. To further investigate the possible causes of default by borrowers, a separate questionnaire was also sent directly to each sample borrower; however, a large proportion of invalid addresses and many nonrespondents resulted in a poor overall response, particularly for the most important subgroup—the defaulters. The resulting low precision of estimates from this direct borrower survey limited its usefulness, and this report draws only on the indirect borrower data supplied by lenders. In any case, the sample, which was drawn to represent the borrowers in repayment, could be (and was) used for a direct survey.

RIC prepared a sampling frame by extracting the borrowers in repayment status from the large GSLP data file on participants maintained by the OE Division of Insured Loans. This produced a total of about 1.6 million sample candidates. The universe file was processed to produce a cluster sample of

A separate report incorporating an analysis of the direct borrower survey data was provided by RMC to OPBE for internal use. See A Survey of Lenders and Borrowers in the Guaranteed Student Loan Program, RMC Report UR-228, November 1975.

approximately 10 borrowers from each of 800 lenders. Lenders were sampled with a probability proportional to the number of borrowers who had reached repayment status. It was believed that a sample of 800 lending institutions would be adequate to provide the desired data by the major types of lenders. The lender sample was stratified by 13 lender categories used by the Division of Insured Loans. Steps were taken to ensure that the samples were statistically adequate and that questionnaires were not sent concerning borrowers who were not in repayment status. These steps are discussed in more detail in Chapter 3.

Two questionnaires were developed, one concerning individual borrowers and one concerning lenders, which reflected the major issues of concern to OE and the specific research questions related to those policy issues. The questionnaires were designed to minimize respondent burden and to focus on the priority items that were developed with the assistance of the Office of Education. The lender instrument was pretested in eight lending institutions, which were asked to note any areas of difficulty: After their review, approval was obtained from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as is required for all such surveys. Appendices B and C present the full questionnaires and the answers obtained. Questions were then redesigned to correct the difficulties experienced by the pretest groups.

Questionnaires were then mailed to lenders in accordance with the sampling plan. In addition, site visits were made to 39 lending institutions to discuss lender operations that might bear on the interpretation of the study data, and to probe more fully than a questionnaire allows in some areas.

The completed questionnaires were returned to RMC and kept under lock and key to ensure the confridentiality of the results. Open-ended questions were coded (the basic questionnaires had been precoded), and computer data files were constructed for the subsequent analysis.

The conclusions of this study should be read with some sensitivity to the complexities and difficulties faced by any study that relies on collecting loan information directly from a sample of lending institutions. Since our conclusions and recommendations have been prepared with these caveats in mind, and to avoid complicating this summary with the details of the

study process, the reader is referred to Chapter 2, which discusses the following aspects of importance to an informed assessment of the quality of the observed data and resulting conclusions:

- sampling process,
- nonresponse to questionnaire items,
- incorrect answers,
- timing, and
- sampling and weighting procedures.

While the reader is urged to refer to that material, it is appropriate to indicate here that no major study finding is negated by any of the matters covered in Chapter 2. Its principal aim is to present the analytic process underlying the results of this study.

STUDY CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions Relating to Lenders

This strivey obtained valid responses from about 70 percent of the selected lenders, which represented about 72 percent of all borrowers in repayment. Thus, RMC feels that the survey data for lenders provides a solid base for conclusions about lender behavior and attitudes. The following paragraphs summarize conclusions relating primarily to lenders.

The lender survey was able to achieve its major objectives with the following exceptions: only limited quantitative information could be acquired on default. Moreover, the survey did not completely succeed in obtaining lender costs for administering GSLP owing to the inability or unwillingness of lenders to provide such data. We did, however, obtain relative cost information from major cost categories involved in the administration of the GSLP.

Participation of Lenders in SSLP

Lenders participate to serve their customers or the community in general. They see the program as a way to fulfill a legitimate need of the constituent population.

Nevertheless, lenders are broadly interested in the economic return to be gained from participation. However, they are more concerned about not suffering any losses from participating in the program than they are about, maximizing profits. Lenders are dissatisfied with the extent and growth of the federal paperwork and red tape required by the program. For most lenders, the GSLP represents a very small portion of their total loan investments, but takes a disproportionate amount of administrative effort. In fact, some lenders regard this as a reason for dropping out of the program. Many feel that regular operating procedures in a lending environment are adequate and they could achieve good results without the extra requirements imposed by the GSLP.

Student Access to GSLP

The GSLP has not evolved into a student aid program accessible to all students. Large numbers of lenders have introduced constraints on student eligibility in addition to legislative and OE regulations. For example, some lenders restrict loans to existing customers, do not give loans to first year students, do not give loans to vocational school students, or do not give loans to students holding CSLP loans from other lenders. Their stionale for imposing these constraints reflects their judgment that the student or program is best served by not granting some loans and that lender funds must be rationed in any program operating at a net loss.

Effects of Lender Size

Many of the differences in lender response to questions appear related to their level of participation; that is, the size of their investment in CSLP. For example, smaller lenders tend to have fewer defaults and spend proportionately less of their costs in finding defaulters and preparing claims. They are also more likely to require customer status before granting loans.

Distribution of Defaults

The phenomenon of default was unevenly distributed among lenders. Defaults are concentrated in certain geographical areas. However, since lender size

is also correlated with default rate, much of the geographical differentiation can be attributed to the fact that certain areas have higher concentrations of larger lenders. Of particular interest is the fact that vocational schools that act as direct lenders experience much higher than average default rates, as do savings and loans associations. Credit unions had substantially lower than average default rates.

Lender Difficulties in Finding Borrowers

Locating borrowers at repayment time was a significant problem for most lenders. Lenders also consistently complained of the lack of cooperation and assistance from the schools in verifying loan status and tracing defaulting borrowers.

Data Validity

RMC found considerable differences between its survey data and OE's GSLP master file for borrower loan status. For example, 44 percent of the defaulters identified by the lenders were listed as nondefaulters on the GSLP master file. Thus, any analysis using data from the GSLP master file must be carefully interpreted.

Conclusions Relating to Borrowers

Analysis of the data provided by lenders about the sample of selected borrowers plus other related data suggests that the defaulter population can be distinguished from the general GSLP population on a number of dimensions:

- higher attendance at vocational schools—in particular, vocational schools that act as direct lenders;
- higher dropout rate; and
- weaker relationships with the lender.

It is interesting that neither the number of loans nor the amount of debt was in any way significantly related to default rate.

Defaulters as a group have a very loose relationship with the lender from which they borrow. Many of them do not ever meet with the lender. Many defaulters are never found by the lender when repayment is scheduled

relationship with the lender; only 30 percent of the nondefaulters do.

As a group, vocational schools exhibit default rates more than twice as high as colleges and universities. Vocational schools that also act as direct lenders exhibit default rates near 50 percent, which is about four times higher than the default rates for colleges and universities. Nearly all of the students who eventually default in vocational schools enter with the intention of getting a job in their fields. However, two-thirds find the schools are of no help in placing them, and only 17 percent eventually end up with jobs close to their fields of training. We cannot conclude that the problem is a lack of quality in the vocational program, although our site visits have confirmed this in certain cases.

RECONSTITUTE ONS

For the contractor, making recommendations is not a straightforward process—especially for a program as complex in its objectives and impacts as GSLP.

Recommendations require value judgments—trade—offs between, for example, program effectiveness and efficiency on the one hand and social equity on the other. RMC has not attempted to resolve such trade—offs in the recommendations that follow on the principle that this would require political decisions beyond the mandate of a contractor.

Recommendations Affecting Lenders

- Competitive rates of return to lenders are important if GSLP investment levels are to be maintained. Administrative actions that would reduce lender operating costs or an increase in the special allowance rate both contribute to lender net returns.
- Economic returns to lenders should be increased significantly if investment levels of GSLP are to be increased. It does not appear likely that lenders will divert additional funds from other investment areas in the absence of increased comparative rates of return. Increases in interest revenue or reduced lender costs would be steps in the right direction.
- Increased efficiency of lender operations could be achieved through OE actions in three areas:
 - (1) defining due diligence in specific terms,
 - (2) redesigning forms and procedures, and '
 - (3) investigating the feasibility of OE doing more central record-keeping, thus reducing lender costs.

Recommendations Intended to Reduce Loan Default

Certain types of borrowers or lenders should be eliminated from the program if the current high default rate continues and if its impact is as serious as it seems to be. Although it is possible that equitable access to student loans may be compromised by such an action, it should be recalled that other programs (e.g., BOEG) are aimed at assisting many of the borrowers that would be affected by such a change.

Some specific suggestions include adding the ability to repay as a criterion for loan eligibility, eliminating vocational schools from GSLP eligibility, eliminating vocational schools as direct lenders, and establishing separate programs, one for vocational schools and one for regular academic collegiate programs. Finally, lenders could be allowed to require co-signers and encouraged to require previous family account relationships.

- OE should implement various administrative and policy changes aimed at reducing high borrower default through improving the ability to locate borrowers at repayment time and otherwise improving the ability to collect loan obligations.
- OE's loan collection process on defaulted loans should be tightened up and a harder line taken.
- OE should establish direct contact with the borrower.
- Either the student or the school should be required to provide annual notification to lenders about change in status and location.
- Consideration should be given to limiting the extent to which GSLP schools or lenders with excessively high default rate experience are continued in the program.

Recommendations for Further Research

The following suggestions for further research anticipate further requirements for program evaluation and control:

- continue to improve the quality of the GSLP data base,
- periodically update the findings of this survey,
- study the operating costs borne by lenders,
- study the operations of selected GSLP state guarantee agencies, and
- examine the problems faced by GSLP schools in participating in the program.

lany of the recommendations we have made about changes in GSLP policy are already being seriously considered for implementation--particularly those that relate to eliminating certain groups or institutions for eligibility. RMC strongly urges OE to initiate studies into the impacts of such actions, both on the schools and on the students. Similarly, some of the recommendations imply the establishment of administrative standards. These should also be studied. For example, if financial ability to repay a loan is added as a criterion for eligibility, then further research into earnings levels that are sufficient for repaying selected loan amounts would be essential.

1

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

The Guaranteed Student Loan Program (GSLP) is authorized under the provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965, Title IV-B, as amended, and is currently one of the major student aid programs of the Office of Education. The objective of the program is to provide students with a means of financing part of the cost of education. GSLP supports the goal of equalizing educational opportunity by helping students overcome financial barriers to post-secondary education. The principal of the student loan is primarily provided by over 19,000 lending institutions, such as commercial banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, insurance companies, pension funds, and eligible educational institutions. Over 200 educational institutions and a few state agencies make direct loans.

GSLP provides federal funds for "interest benefits," a special allowance to lenders, and payment of default claims to lenders. While the student is in school, during a maximum 12-month grace period and during periods of authorized deferment, the federal government pays the total interest on behalf of eligible students. For loans made prior to March 1, 1973, students, whose adjusted family income was less than \$15,000, qualified for subsidized loans. Under the Education Amendments of 1972, which became effective on March 1, 1973, interest is paid on behalf of students whose loans are determined to be eligible for such payment on the basis of a recommendation resulting from a needs analysis made by the school. The special allowance, which was authorized under the Emergency Student Loan Act of 1969

^{1.} The program is also referred to as the Federally Insured Student Loan (FISL) program. For purposes of this report, GSLP and FISL are considered synonymous.

and which may not exceed three percent per annum, varies with the condition of the money market and is paid on the average quarterly unpaid principal balance of all loans made after August 1, 1969.

The most recent amendment to the Higher Education Act (PL 32-269), which became effective on June 2, 1974, changed the basis for determining eligibility for interest benefits. While students with adjusted family incomes of less than \$15,000 previously were eligible for interest subsidies, the amendment established a different needs test that, as applied by lenders, tended to reduce the number and/or size of subsidized loans. These regulations provide for automatic eligibility for annual loans up to \$2,000, but require a needs test for the loan increment from \$2,000 to \$2,500:

Currently, the maximum individual loan may not exceed \$2,500 per academic year. The total aggregate loans outstanding may not exceed \$7,500 for undergraduate students and \$10,000 for graduate or professional study, including amounts borrowed at the undergraduate level.

Any student may apply for a loan who has been accepted for enrollment in an eligible school or who is already in attendance and in good standing, and who is a citizen of the United States or is in the United States for other than a temporary purpose. In most states, half-time students are eligible, but some state agency programs require full-time attendance. Residency requirements also vary in some states.

Twenty-eight states or private agencies and the District of Columbia administer their own guaranteed loan programs. The agencies may contract with the commissioner of education to reinsure 80 percent of the principal of the loan if loss is incurred by the agency in meeting its obligations to lenders on guaranteed loans in default. No fee is charged for the reinsurance. The Federally Insured Student Loan Program operates in the remaining states. In addition, the Act authorizes federal insurance for lenders operating on an interest basis for students who by virtue of their residency do not have access to a state program. Under the federal program, the commissioner will insure the lender for 100 percent of the unpaid principal and interest outstanding at the time the loan enters into default. The insurance premium charged is one-quarter of one percent per annum on the principal amount of the loan for the period from disbursement through the expiration of the 12-1 month period following the expected date of graduation.

By the end of Fiscal Year 1975, it is expected that Joan disbursements totaling \$7 billion will have been made to students under this program. More than \$1.1 billion will have been disbursed in Fiscal Year 1975 alone. Thesedollar figures translate to participation by over/6 million students, 19,000 lenders, and 8,200 educational institutions. Federal operations began in Fiscal Year 1968 and the amount of insured loans increased rapidly during the succeeding six fiscal years. Although loan volume increased in all types of educational institutions participating in GSLP, the specialized and vocational (proprietary) sector increased its participation most rapidly. accounted for \$2.9 million in loans in Fiscal Year 1968, \$19.4 million in Fiscal Year 1969, \$15.2 million in Fiscal Year 1970, \$143.2 million in Fiscal Year 1971, \$242.2 million in Fiscal Year 1972, and \$218.2 million in Fiscal Year 1973. With this growth in all sectors, there has been a corresponding increase in interest benefits and special allowance payments as well as in claims payments for death, disability, bankruptcy, and default. because these payments have increased so rapidly, it has been progressively more difficult to estimate accurately the amounts that should be requested in the President's Annual Budget to operate the Student Loan Insurance Fund (SLIF).

For each of the last several years, the Office of Education has required far more money than originally requested for payment of its GSLP obligations. Because of this, OE initiated research activities (including the present RMC survey) to better understand the lending/default process and to develop better data/techniques for estimating GSLP revenues and expenditures.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The general purpose and specific research objectives of this study may be best understood by briefly examining the conditions that prompted its initiation by the Office of Education. Before and during the project formulation period, an increasing number of questions had been raised concerning the cost and effectiveness of the Guaranteed Student Loan Program. Federal costs were increasing steadily for both its interest subsidy and reimbursement to lenders when students had not fulfilled repayment obligations on their loans (i.e., defaulted). Of even greater concern was the unknown extent of future federal liabilities that were implicit in new or already issued GSLP loans. In particular, it appeared that default rates were increasing to levels far above expectations and had already caused several supplemental appropriation requests to cover unexpected GSLP costs. In addition, there was increasing concern that

the program would not be able to fulfill its objective of providing substantial financial assistance to college students because many lenders were reducing or eliminating their financial participation in GSLP (due to dissatismation as well as a tightening money market). Furthermore, the very high default rates for certain demographic groups and types of schools raised several questions of efficiency and equity (e.g., Was it "fair" that large percentages of certain types of students were refusing to repay their loans?).

Addressing these issues and questions was complicated by the lack of adequate data from existing information systems maintained by the Division of Insured Loans (DIL), the group within OE with operational responsibility for GSLP. Even though large computer-based files were maintained on all i loans ever granted by GSLP (both federal and state guarantee parts), there were two significant difficul/ties: (1) much of the information needed to address current issues was not currently collected, and (2) some data in existing files were of questionable quality since there was often a considerable avoidance or lag in lender and school reporting of status changes. this background that OF (specifically the Office of Planning, Budgeting, and Evaluation — OPBE) initiated two projects related to GSLP. The first was to analyze existing GSLP data files on default relationships and to develop a Loan-Estimation Model, that would allow projection of OE future cash flow requirements (for interest and default obligations) based on the present mix of relationships of GSLP loans. The second study (RMC's present contract) required the collection and analysis of new data, specifically a comprehenrive survey of a representative sample of GSLP lenders and borrowers, survey was intended to obtain types of data not otherwise available, including repayment details, borrowers attitudes, lender procedures and render attitudes. At the same time, this survey would validate certain items of the existing data base and obtain several data items needed to estimate parameter values (or refine earlier estimates) in the internal relationships of the Loan Estimation Model being developed by the first project.

^{1.} More recently, this organization has been renamed the Office of Guaranteed Student Loans. In this report, the older title, Division of Insured Loans, is used.

In summary, both of these projects were designed and supervised by OPBE to improve available data and knowledge about the GSLP loan/default process and to explore the important issues that are critical to ongoing policy deliberations in OE and Congress concerning GSLP. While both are exploratory and one-time in nature, they will add considerably to the limited base of knowledge about the student/lender process.

During the early phases of this project, RMC and OPBE expanded the general purpose of the survey into more specific objectives that could serve as guidelines for the subsequent questionnaire design and data analysis activities. The following paragraphs summarize this information.

The lender and borrower surveys are designed for three general purposes: first, to collect information for the Loan Estimation Model that is not currently collected; second, to collect program information that is currently collected, but for which there has never been any form of validation, and, third, to collect data that will be used to better understand the possible causes of increasing loan defaults among student borrowers.

The specific objectives of the lender survey are as follows:

- (1) to expand on the information lenders currently report to the Office of Education, particularly for data needed on a one-time basis for OE's Loan Estimation Model;
- (2) to determine lender experience with loan defaults that will be used both to validate the OE file data and to assess certain qualitative aspects of the loan portfolio;
- (3) to determine some of the important procedures relating to lender administration of guaranteed loans—that is, the approval, servicing, and collection of such loans;
- (4) to estimate some of the primary costs associated with the administration of guaranteed loans; and
- to determine some of the opinions, viewpoints, and more formal policies that constitute lender response to the structural and administrative requirements of the GLS program; and
- (6) to determine certain aspects of borrower repayment experience with lenders, including the setting of repayment terms and amount of monthly payment.

Related to each of the specific objectives of the survey are numerous policies, procedures, and administrative variations that are important for a more complete knowledge of the default phenomenon, but for which a questionnaire is an inappropriate instrument. The study design therefore included extensive interviews at 40 lending institutions, with each individual lender or group of lenders chosen in relation to a particular aspect of the default process or a particular set of questionnaire items for which RMC wished to gather additional background information.

The lender and borrower data are also related to the OE Loan Estimation Model. The Guaranteed Student Loan Program currently collects a large amount of data relating to the characteristics of the borrowers (including the characteristics of their loans), the lending institutions, and the educational institutions attended (which are sometimes also the lending institutions). These data are part of the individual loan transaction records, parts of which are recorded in five separate computer files maintained to provide processing flexibility for program operations.

However, the usefulness of the GSLP Loan Estimation Model is directly dependent on the validity and reliability of these data, which represent over 5.5 million loans, to over 3 million borrowers. To the extent that the recorded data do not accurately represent the actual characteristics of borrowers, loan transactions, and lending and educational institutions, the Loan Estimation Model will produce distorted foregasts of future defaults, interest benefits, and premium income. Presumed inaccuracy of data may be partially caused by deficiencies and problems in the data delivery and recording phases of the GSLS II system. The lender survey—constituting an independent, randomly stratified, representative sample—was intended to reveal the rough dimensions of data inaccuracy from the GSLS II files currently being used by the Loan Estimation Model:/ In addition, certain borrower repayment and financial data that the program does not collect were obtained. These data relate to assumptions about the distribution of default claims over time (partially a function of the length of repayment terms/) and to the employment and income characteristics of repayers on the one hand and defaulters on the other.

SAMPLE DESIGN

The sampling plan flowed directly from the study's primary interest in the GSLP repayment and default processes. The universe was therefore defined to include borrowers and associated lenders who had obtained federally guaranteed loans (including state guarantee agency loans) and who had one or more loans converted into repayment. This included borrowers who had ever become obligated for repayment (even if they never started repaying), and those who had already fully repaid their loans.

The research design led to the need for a representative sample of GSLP lending institutions and a representative sample of GSLP borrowers who had reached or completed the repayment stage. Mail questionnaires were designed and sent to sample lenders. Included were a Part I, covering aggregate institutional operations, and a separate Part II, covering the behavior of each sample borrower associated with that lender. A separate questionnaire was also sent directly to each sample borrower. However, a large proportion of invalid addresses and many nonrespondents resulted in a poor overall response, particularly for the most important subgroup—the defaulters. The resulting low precision of estimates from this direct borrower survey limited its usefulness, and this report draws only on the indirect borrower data supplied by lenders. In any case, the sample was drawn to represent the borrowers in repayment that could be (and was) used for a direct survey.

The only usable sampling frame for the survey was the large data file on GSLP participants maintained by the Division of Insured Loans of the Office of Education. A series of separate, but interrelated, computer files are maintained by DIL covering all GSLP loans since the federal program started in 1965. RMC prepared a consolidated unduplicated computer file of borrowers and associated lenders with converted loans to use as a universe

^{1.} A separate report incorporating analysis of the direct borrower survey data was provided by RMC to OPBE for internal use. See A Survey of Lenders and Borrowers in the Guaranteed Student Loan Program, RMC Report UR-228, November 1975.

for sampling (since most DIL files are kept by individual loan and do have overlaps). Borrowers were selected for this file if there was a reason to expect (based on such factors as expected graduation date) that they should have entered repayment status, even if a confirmation of the status was not on the master file. This procedure was adopted to avoid possible bias from certain borrower types not being properly updated on the central OE file, even though it was recognized that some sample members drawn from this universe would be dropped later if initial status confirmations from lenders indicated them to be deferred or otherwise not yet liable for repayment. The resulting total number of borrowers in this universe file was about 1.5 million.

The universe file was processed to produce a cluster sample of approximately 10 borrowers from each of 800 lenders. Although the detailed procedures were those best suited to computer operations (since all sampling was done that way), the resultant sample was designed to satisfy standard statistical rules and criteria.

with respect to lender data, lenders were sampled with probability proportional to the number of borrowers who had reached repayment status. Thus, a lender with 1,000 such borrowers would have 10 times as much chance of selection as one with only 100. This approach of oversampling the large lenders tended to reduce the sampling variability of aggregate estimates since, in making estimates, the report of a lender with 1,000 borrowers was multiplied by a weighting factor only one-tenth as great as that of a lender with 100 borrowers. It was believed that a sample of 800 lending institutions selected in this fashion would be adequate to provide the desired data by the major types of lenders. To ensure representativeness,

^{1.} Initial examination of the lender data base indicated a sample of more than 10 borrowers would be needed for a few very large borrowers to avoid low sampling rates for them. RMC was prepared to hold special discussions with those few lenders to gain their cooperation, but no significant problems of this type were encountered. The number of borrowers per lender was not important for analytical purposes since the responses were not used to estimate characteristics of that lender, but rather for examining the universe of borrowers in repayment as a class.

the sample of lenders was stratified by all 13 lender categories even though it was known that tabulation and analysis was only feasible for about six or seven composite categories having sufficient sample size. It was not possible to specify the specific categories until the sample data had been examined. Since lenders having over a specified number of borrowers in repayment were selected with certainty, the sampling variation was reduced. Thus, the range of variability of lender size within a lender category must be considered along with the absolute number of lenders.

The general approach was that lenders were ordered by type of lender and ZIP Code and then a systematic sample was taken with the appropriate skip intervals of borrowers. Since the skip interval was expected to be about 2,000 (1.5 million divided by 800), this meant that any lender having over 2,000 borrowers converted to repayment was sure to be in the lender sample. For categorical data--i.e., proportion of borrowers associated with lenders that had a given characteristic, or proportions of lenders with a given characteristic—the sample size was designed to produce standard deviations of less than two percentage points. For aggregate data, such as total loan volume by year, the sample was expected to be quite efficient, but the sampling errors were not known until estimates were made from the survey data.

It was further felt that there was a need to verify the eligibility of the selected borrower at the same time addresses were requested from the lender. The need for verification of current borrower status stemmed from many indications that the GSLP master files used for sampling might be out of date or contain significant amounts of other errors concerning the eligibility criteria. To check the present repayment status for the 10 selected borrowers should have been a very simple task for each lender.

The borrowers in the survey were selected by a systematic sampling process from the borrowers converted to repayment in the selected lending institutions. This process ensured that each borrower within a stratum who had reached repayment status would have the same initial chance of selection. It was planned that a sample of about 8,000 borrowers would be drawn. The chance of selection would then be on the order of 1 in 200, corresponding to a borrower file of 1.5 million. If data for each of 8,000 sample cases

were obtained, it would be possible to make estimates for the entire file by giving each sample return a weight of 200. However, we did not, of course, expect to get data for all 8,000 sample borrowers.

We emphasize that, although the cluster sample design minimized the number of lenders that had to be contacted for borrower data, it did not mean that the sample of borrowers was disproportionately concentrated in large lenders. Since a smaller fraction of borrowers was taken from a large lender than from a small one, each borrower had the same chance of selection regardless of the size of the lender with which he was associated. Overall probability of being selected was the product of the probability of the particular lender being selected and the probability of the selection of that borrower from among that lender's eligible group. The borrower sample should give adequate representation of any class of borrowers constituting 10 percent or more of the universe. For example, if the universe contains 10 percent from proprietary vocational schools, the borrower sample should allow proper estimation of the characteristics of that group.

The recommended borrower sample size was chosen after consideration of its effect on sampling variance. In the universe of specific borrowers, we had various universe control counts, so the sample need only be used to estimate proportions. Since the sample of borrowers was clustered within each institution, it will have a somewhat larger variance than would a simple random sample of the same size. On the other hand, the systematic nature of the sample should produce some gains of stratification. For an estimate of a proportion (p) of borrowers who have a given characteristic based upon a responses, the standard deviation is governed by the relationship:

$$\sigma_{p}' = \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}$$

Thus, an estimate of an upper bound on the standard deviation can be made by assuming the cluster sample doubles the variance, p equals the worst case of 0.5, and 2,500 completed questionnaires were received. The maximum standard deviation is then 0.14 or 1.4 percentage points.

QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

To implement the survey objectives, it was necessary for RMC to design and test questionnaires for collecting data about GSLP lenders and borrowers. The following paragraphs describe that design process.

The two questionnaires were developed in several steps. Working with the original materials from the RFP, a list of major policy issues of concern to OE was first drawn up and specific research questions were taid out. Preliminary consultations were held between RMC staff and OE personnel who deal with GSLP loans, in particular with repayment terms and claims. Working with information already available in OE records, it was determined that the terms of repayment per se were not of central importance, as had originally been thought, since a very high percentage of borrowers who were repaying were doing so at the minimum monthly rate. Rather, the problem of the default phenomenon—its frequency, the reasons for its occurrence, and the impacts it might have on such things as lender participation—was determined to be a central focus for the borrower survey. Similarly, the concept of the level of participation of lenders in the GSLP program was singled out as the primary focus of the lender survey.

Thus, RMC project staff, working primarily with the project monitor in OPBE, compiled potential questions that were intended to address these major issues. For instance: What are the major factors that might account for borrower default? Do default rates differ substantially between types of school attended? What factors tend to discourage lender participation— cost of handling these loans compared with others, experience with having many defaults, low returns on loans?

Working with these questions, RMC staff assembled a first working draft questionnaire that laid out all the information required to address the questions and gave tentative form to the questions themselves. These first versions were quite lengthy and were used to aid in the further specifica tion of priorities for the study. The drafts were reviewed by OPBE, by RMC staff and management, and by consultants familiar with the policies and

officers of a small number of lenders in the local area were interviewed informally to determine how burdensome some of the proposed questions for lenders would be and whether questions of confidentiality of information would be involved in mounting the surveys.

RMC staff then redrafted the instruments, taking into account the need to reduce respondent burden by reducing the length of the items and focusing on priority items. A second working draft was assembled and circulated within the offices of OE concerned with program development and administration of student loan programs, as well as within OPBE. While awaiting comments on this, a slightly revised version of each instrument (the revisions mainly corrected errors in format) was used for pretest purposes.

the Office of Education Movided RMC with a list of 16 lending institutions across the country. The list included the name and telephone number of a contact person at each bank. Nine of the lending institutions were contacted and eight agreed to assist in the pretesting of both Part I and Part II II of the lender questionnaire. Each lender was asked to note any areas of ambiguity and to suggest any improvements. Six of these eight institutions responded within the necessary time span.

The pretest proved to be extremely helpful in pointing up problem areas. These difficulties were corrected in the following ways:

- (1) Questions that required too much detail or that were a burden to complete were pared down to their essential components.
- (2) Questions to which most participants could not provide answers were eliminated if not critical to the analysis.
- (3) Questions that were redundant or irrelevant were eliminated.
- (4) Questions that were ambiguous or confusing were clarified and refined.
- (5) Questions that had inadequate response categories were en-

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UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY RESULTS

STUDY LIMITATIONS

To understand the results of this study, it is essential to bear in mind the complexities and difficulties inherent in any study that rests on the collection of loan information from lending institutions and borrowers. Many of these features reside in the details of the processes by which data were identified and collected. Appendix A is a detailed description of the field procedures that were used in this project, and the reader is urged to read that description carefully. However, for those whose time and interests will not permit this, we present here the key features of an informed assessment of the quality of data collected and stability of the conclusions drawn in the course of this study.

To prevent the reader's coming away from this discussion with the wrong conclusions, it is useful to reiterate that these complexities and difficulties are characteristic of many studies of this sort. RMC's preparation of conclusions and recommendations has taken these possibilities into account. Even though these limitations were recognized by OE and RMC in advance, this survey was initiated because data about GSLP were not otherwise available and this was considered the most feasible way of obtaining that information. Of the potential limitations, nonresponse bias is the most significant. Considerable attention has been given to better understanding its impact. The other qualifications appear within the range of acceptability for studies of this type and are not expected to have significant impacts on the study conclusions.

Immediately following are brief discussions of the major issues important to understanding the study results. The final sections of this chapter examine the more important of these at greater length.

Sampling Process

For both lenders and borrowers, it was obviously necessary for this survey to address a sample of participants. While any sampling process introduces the possibility of errors, this particular source of limitation is relatively small and controllable. As discussed elsewhere in this report, RMC prepared a carefully structured stratified sample of lenders and borrowers from the universe of all GSLP participants who had ever become liable for repayment, as indicated by the master data file at the Office of Education. Although this was clearly the best universe available for sampling purposes, the file apparently misclassified some participants and had incorrect or missing data elements for others. Therefore, the universe represented by the sample used may be slightly different from the universe of interest. All things considered, RMC does not believe that the limitations produced by this sampling procedure are of major concern.

Nonresponse Bias

The purpose of the sampling process is to make inferences about the general population (the universe) from which the sample was drawn. We would therefore like to be able to say that the characteristics exhibited by the sample respondents are representative of the general survey population. This statement rests on the assumption that the response phenomenon is random; i.e., all the people in the sample have an equal opportunity to respond and have exercised it.

Although this is generally not true, it appears to be a very reasonable, assumption in the cases of the lender survey and the survey of borrower data supplied by lenders.

First of all, the 70 percent of the lenders in the sample who returned questionnaires represents a substantial majority and includes 18 of the 20 largest GSLP lenders in our sample. Secondly, the known reasons for not completing the questionnaire do not point to a systematic deletion of certain lenders from the sample (and thus any systematic source of bias). No adjustments for nonresponse bias were therefore made for the data on lender operations or attributes because these adjustments would not be expected to addivalue to the data.



Given that no significant sources of bias are apparent in the lender survey, the only way in which biases could appear in the borrower data would be as a result of lenders' systematically not supplying data on certain classes of borrowers. In this regard, the only systematic patterns discovered by RMC were related to the lender's recordkeeping methods: Certain lenders tended to destroy or put in inactive storage the records of loans that were paid off (whether normally or by default) and were unwilling to retrieve the information requested by this survey. Lender responses about individual borrowers covered about 60 percent of the original borrower sample. Coverage of the borrower responses was compared with the original sample to investigate for nonresponse bias and adjustments were made where significant response differences were found (all adjustments were small):

Item Nonresponse

A somewhat different type of nonresponse bias is created when particular questions or groups of questions are left unanswered on a survey form that is otherwise usable. This presents little difficulty in the tabulation process since only the valid answers are tabulated and data summations can be expressed in terms of percent of those responding to a given question. However, the interpretation of the data results may be weakened since the effective sample size for particular areas of inquiry may be reduced by such items of nonresponse.

The lender replies often included a significant number of unanswered questions. In most cases, this appeared to be because the lenders did not maintain their records such that they could conveniently answer a given question. Some lenders commented that they were too busy to look for the information or even to estimate it separately. The largest category of incomplete answers was from the Part II form of the lenders' survey, which

^{1.} Some of this effect was expected since one questionnaire had to be designed for use with many types of lenders (from small credit unions to the biggest banks) who kept their records in many ways and at different levels of detail.

requested information about individual sample borrowers. A large number of these were returned almost totally incomplete because the lender did not have records available on the borrowers. In some cases, this was because the lender could find no record for the loan. However, the reason for this was usually because the loan had been fully repaid (by claim or borrower) and therefore the records had been destroyed or put in dead storage. RMC was careful to make maximum use of all data provided, but we were not in a position to go back to individual respondents and ask a second time for specific data items that were missing.

Incorrect Answers

An additional contribution to low data quality occurs if the respondent provides an incorrect answer to one or more questions on a completed questionnaire. Although RMC has no way of knowing how often this occurred, special attention was given to minimizing this factor where it could be observed. All survey responses were subjected to computer editing that checked for invalid answers that were outside previously established ranges or did not otherwise meet established criteria for valid data. This editing process also identified errors caused by incorrect data transcription, keypunching, or computer processing. These errors were then checked and corrected. Short of a separate validation study, RMC has no way of determining whether the respondents told the truth; as long as the answers appeared reasonable, they were accepted as correct statements. In the area of attitudes and opinions, we were particularly interested in the behavior of the respondent even if that behavior was determined by perceptions that, in reality, were not correct.

Timing

Another factor that must be kept in mind when interpreting the results of this survey and the conclusions drawn from them is the timing of the survey. All of the statistics and most of the opinions in this survey relate to a period several months prior to this final report. Statistical data for loan status and other financial data were requested as of January 1, 1974. Since respondents were completing the survey about six to eight

months after that date, the responses from some lenders probably reflect their status and attitudes at the time they filled out their questionnaires. In addition, the present procedures for GSLP are somewhat different from what they were during the response period. It is also certainly true that economic conditions continued to change, some for the better and some for the worse. These changes probably affected the financial situations of both the lenders and the borrowers. However, these kinds of lags are inevitable in a survey of this sort because of the time required to design the survey, obtain O'B clearance, obtain responses, and write the final report.

Although changes in economic conditions and program regulations have occurred, the major problems of rising defaults and lender relations remain. RMC believes that this normal timing lag does not significantly reduce the usefulness of the results and conclusions of this study.

RESULTS OF INITIAL REQUEST TO LENDERS

As mentioned earlier, a two-stage process was designed to secure from the lenders the most current status and address of each borrower selected for the sample. This provided an opportunity for validation of certain GSLP data and definition of the borrowers to be covered by later detailed questionnaires. Follow-up requests were sent to these institutions as required, and eventually responses were received from all but 30 of the 784 sample lenders. Approximately 97 percent of the sample of borrowers was accounted for by this lender response. The remaining 30 lenders were sent special requests for borrower addresses along with their questionnaires.



^{1.} RMC cannot be sure of the incidence of the reasons some lenders gave for not sending addresses for all sample borrowers. RMC received comments from some lenders, but cannot be sure of the importance or extent of these reasons among all nonresponding lenders. Based upon telepone calls and written comments, it appears that many lenders did not have the addresses readily available in their record-keeping systems. Most lenders had records for "closed" loans (fully repaid by borrower or GSLP) in inactive storage and were unable or unwilling to search that file system. Of course, many defaulters were in that status because the lender was unable to find the current location of the borrower.

The responses provided by lenders constitute one important result of this survey and they are presented in Table 1. All the categories are selfexplanatory, with the possible exception of columns 6 and 7. Where the lending institution indicated it had no record of a borrower, two subcategories were established by RMC. If the bank indicated it had fully examined its records or otherwise indicated it had exhausted its ability to check. the borrower was recorded as classification 6 and no further follow-up by RIC was conducted for that institution. If, however, no reason was given for checking no record, the borrower was categorized as 7 and questionnaires and other follow-up activities were carried out by RMC. This approach was used because RAC had indications that many of the "no record" designations by lenders involved records in dead storage or similar situations. It was hoped that additional follow-up with questionnaires would convince these lending institutions to pursue the matter further. For the "no record" (category 6), a printout by individuals was provided to OE so further investigation of the true existence of such loans could be pursued by OE if desired.

Table 1 reveals that only about 11 percent of the borrowers were not covered by addresses, with the bulk of these being from the "no record exists" category.

Table 1
BORROWER PROFILE BASED UPON INITIAL LENDER RESPONSE

	Borrower Status Indicated by Lenders								٧
Category	(Blank) No Status Indicated	l In Repayment	2 Paid In Full	Jefault (except deceased)	4 Deceased	5 Not Yet Due	6 No Record (no follow-up)	7 No Record No Record (follow-up)	Total
With Addresses	\ 8	3,158	1,988	736	22	1,128	22 ^a	78 ^a	7,150
Without Addresses	1 .	. 22	314	43	15	9	107	415	926
Total	9	3,180	2,312	779	37	1,137	129	493	8,076
Column % of Total	0.1%	39.4%	28.6%	9.7%	0.5%	14.1%	1.6%	6.1%	100%

a. Lenders provided addresses for some horrowers for which they did not provide a record of loan status

The second biggest category is "paid in full," which, of course, covers older loans and many lenders who no longer keep records on such individuals. All things considered, RMC believes that fairly good results were achieved in this area.

Two categories of borrowers were not used further in RMC's study as a result of the information received from lender responses. Category 5, "not yet due for repayment," concerned those students not meeting our criteria for being in repayment status and therefore were not pursued further. This amounted to 1,137 students, or about 14 percent. Category 6 was also dropped. This category encompassed borrowers for whom no record existed at the lenders and, therefore, no addresses could be obtained for them by RMC (except for the small number of cases where the lender provided an address) despite checking "no record of loan status exists." These two groups were not used further for the survey since it had been decided earlier that the lender-reported loan status was more likely to be up-to-date. Based upon this assumption, neither group of students should have been in the intended sample of borrowers known to be in repayment, but there was incomplete information to know this when the sample was selected.

Table 2 tabulates the borrower sample in a different way. The vertical dimension lists the loan status of the students as originally identified on the master control file of DIL at the Office of Education. This is the category by which the borrowers were originally identified and sampled, although at that time we knew that some of the classification data were incorrect or out of date. The other dimension, identified by column headings, lists the loan status information reported by the lenders for the same students. This cross-tabulation allows one type of validity check on the loan status data as reported and maintained centrally in the Office of Education. The cross-tabulation of Table 2 covers the full 8,346 students sampled. The approximately 350 borrowers covered by the 30 nonresponding lenders have been combined in the first column (indicated by "no code" for the purposes of this tabulation). This information is generally consistent with Table 1, although a slight difference exists because the tabulation was prepared at a slightly different time.

One significant observation concerns the number of defaulters. As expected, a significantly larger number of defaulters was identified by lenders as opposed

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Jobic 2
CROSS-TABULATION OF LOW STATUS

Ų.		Lender Reported Status									
•		•	A	· - j			, l	No Record			
	OE Reported Loan Status	Starke (No Code)	In Repayment	Paid • In Tull	Default (except deceased)	Poce ase d	Not Yet Due	No Follow-Up	Follow-Up	Row Total	
	Default Fouth (Code O or P)	1 7.2 0.3 0.0	0.0 0.0 0.0	0 0,0 0,0 0,0	1 7.2 0.1 0.0	10 1.2 27.8 0.0	0 0.0 0.0 0.0	1 7.2 0.8 0.0	1 7.2 0.2 0.0	14 0.2	
	Default- Binkruptiv (Code Q)	0 0.0 0.0 0.0	0 - 0.0 0.0 0.0	0 0.0 0.0 0.0	7 0.9 0.9 0.1	0.0 0.0 0.0	0 0.0 0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0 0.0	3 30.0 0.0 4 0.0	10 0.1	
	Default (Code N)	26 4.9 7.01 0.3	12 1.9 0.4 0.1	41 6.3 1.8 0.5	492 75.9 63.7 5.9	1 0.2 2.8 0.0	8 1.2 0.7 0.1	12 1.9 9.3 0.1	56 8.6 11.6 0.7	648 7.8	
	In Repayment* (Code M)	67 .4.3 .18.4 0.8	1,046 67.5 33.3 12.5	198 12,8 8.6 2.4	68 4.4 8.8 0.8	1 0.1 2.8 0.0	95 . 6.1 8.5 1.1	16 1.0 12.4 0.2	58 3.7 12.0 0.7	1,5 ¹⁹ 18.6	
	Paid in Full :	34 3.4 9.3 0.4	79 8.0 2.5 0.9	682 69.1 - 29.7 8.2	16 16.0 2.1 0.2	0.0 0.0 0.0	53 5.4 4.7 0.6	34 3.4 26.4 0.4	89 9.0 18.4 1.1	987 11.8	
٠	Withdrawn (Code H)	114 4.8 31.2 1.4	787 33.3 25.1 9.4	558 22.7 23.4 6.4	129 5.5 16.7 1.5	3 0.1 8.3 0.0	658 27.8 58.6 7.9	30 1.3 23.3 0.4	107 4.5 22.2 1.3	2,366 28.3)	
	Graduatë ⁿ (Code G)	122 4.5 33.4 1.5	1,213 34.4 38.7 14.5	837 30.6 36.4 10.0	48 1.8 6.2 0.6	2 0.1 5.5 9 0.0	309 11.3 27.5 3.7	35 1.3 27.1 0.4	169 6.0 34.2 2.0	2,731 32.7	
,	Blank (No Code)	1 2.4 0.3 0.0	1 2.4 0.0 0.0	4 9.8 0.2 0.0	11 26.8 1.4 0.1	19 46.3 52.8 0.2	0 0.0 0.0 • 0.0	1 2.4 0.8 0.0	4 9.8 0.8 0.0	41 0.5	
	Column Total	365.0 ·	3,138.0 37.6	2,300.0 3746	772.0 9.2	36.0 0.4	1,123.0 13.5	129.0 · 1.5	483.0 5.8	8,346.0 100.0	

Legend	for Cell	Conto	nts	•
•	41	-	- Count	. 5 🕶 .
	6.3	-	Percent of Ro	w Total
	1.8	-	-Percent of Co	lumn Total
	0.5	_	Percent of Gr	and Total



to the central OE records. Where the original sample had 8.1 percent in the default and deceased category, approximately 10.3 percent fell in this category based on the more recent lender indications. This higher percentage of defaulters was expected (and desired) due to advance indications that the GSLP claims and collections file (from which the sample was drawn) omitted significant numbers of claims that had not yet been processed or submitted. The desired result was a larger number of defaulters for the purposes of this study.

In terms of the resulting sample that could be used for mail purposes, RMC was satisfied with these results. While it is true that the effective sample size declined owing to the exclusion of about 1,500 borrowers (because they were not yet due for repayment or no record existed), almost all of the decline was in the nondefaulter category. Such sample attrition was expected and was one reason the initial borrower sample had been increased from 4,000 to 8,000 during the design phase.

SAMPLING PROCEDURES

The lender sample was drawn and structured in standard ways, without any significant adjustments that would need to be explained here. However, a few features of the borrower sample, and of the weighting procedures for both samples, deserve to be mentioned.

Borrower Sample

A primary concern of the borrower sampling was to ensure that defaulters were represented adequately. Tables A-3 and A-4 in Appendix A display the distribution of the loan status of borrowers by the lender's ZIP Code area, both for the universe and for the sample. The proportion of borrowers with default codes in the sample (8.1 percent) is about the same as the proportion in the overall universe (8.4 percent). We do not, however, place much credence in this proportion as a measure of the program's default rate since there was a known lag in obtaining that status from the DIL claims and collections file, which at the time of our selection had 138,000 records. Several months later, the file contained over 215,000 records, which was probably the result



of intensive efforts by the Office of Education to update its records and the apilly increasing number of claims received by OE. It is likely that, if our universe had been created four months later, it might well have shown 12 percent to 15 percent of its borrowers in default status.

RMC believes that, in general, the borrowers and lenders sample produced by these procedures is very suitable for assessing the status and problems of GSLP relative to repayment. Stratification by lender type ensured a good representation on that basis. Ordering lenders by ZIP Code before taking a systematic sample ensured a good geographic distribution, even though that variable was not expected to have any major effect. The distributions of the sample and universe presented in the previous two paragraphs show the results. Although the questionable quality of data on defaulter status precluded stratification on that basis, the resulting sample included the desired number of defaulters (which increased later by about 25 percent when the lenders reported their latest loan status).

Weighting Procedures

The lender selection procedure outlined above amounted to lining up lenders in the universe below a certain size (1,416), by type and then by ZIP Code. That line was split into intervals representing 1,416 borrowers each; one lender was selected from each interval. The lender selected is viewed as representative of the lenders in its interval, and that lender's borrowers as representative of borrowers for lenders in that interval.

In terms of analysis, it was apparent that if estimated parameters for each interval were desired, then the sample lender should be weighted by the ratio of the interval size to the lender size. For example, if the sample lender had 20 borrowers and reported loans of \$100, then a reasonable estimate for the interval (since we expected a high degree of homogeneity) was the average loan amount for the lender times the number of borrowers in the interval (1,416); i.e., $$100 \ (\frac{1,416}{20})$. The quantity



(1,416/20) is the lender's weight. Thus, the estimate of total responses of lenders should be weighted by the inverse of their probability of entering the sample. Weights are:

1 if
$$n_i > 1,416$$
, and

$$\frac{1,416}{n_i}$$
 if $n_i \le 1,416$,

where n_{i} is the number of borrowers for lender i. ,

One problem arose in connection with the weighting of the lender questionnaires because a significant number of sample lenders had consolidated or merged with other lenders. For example, although the Bank of America was represented several times in the lender sample-usually as a certainty lender, but sometimes as a noncertainty lender-it returned one questionnaire for the entire bank. There is no problem in treating the certainty Bank of America branches as one lender. However, if the noncertainty branches had been properly excluded, additional noncertainty lenders may well have been included in the sample. In any event, it would have resulted in a different selection of noncertainty Tenders. We have chosen to use the original weights, ignoring the very slight adjustments that could be made to reflect the fact that several certainty lenders are "representative" of a set of borrowers slightly farger than their own...

Similar procedures using the inverse of their probability of selection, were used so borrower responses would be weighted to produce accurate estimates of totals for borrowers in the program.

REPRESENTATIVENESS OF THE LENDER SURVEY OF BORROWER DATA

In previous sections, the sampling plan and procedures were discussed. Briefly, the borrower sample was stratified by lender type and lender ZIP Code, and borrowers were selected in a systematic fashion using a random start technique. While the sample characteristics were compared with other sources to establish their representativeness, the possible effects of non-response are a separate question. In this section, the problems that arose

because of the relationships between the lender response rate and important program variables will be discussed. Respondents and nonrespondents will also be compared to examine the nature and strength of differences between them.

The variables used in this section come from the files of OE and provide unbiased classifications with respect to response/nonresponse. Although the data defined by these classifications are known to have significant error rates, there is no reason to believe that the errors are related to the response/nonresponse division. Therefore, no systematic errors should be introduced into the cross-tabulations.

This survey has a minimal nonresponse problem because the 60-percent response rate for lender-supplied data about borrowers was relatively high and be cause the self-interest motive does not impact upon the socioeconomic profile of the respondents as it would in a direct borrower survey. Nevertheless, it was felt that some consideration should be given to possible biases. No substantial sources of nonrepresentativeness were discovered when the respondents were contrasted with the sample along the dimensions of sex, race, loan status, school control, program type, and school size.

One notable difference, however, was that defaulters were slightly overrepresented, accounting for 10.2 percent of the responses, while composing
only 8.2 percent of the sample. Table 3 shows the complete distribution of
loan statuses. The table also displays the appropriate weight adjustment.
Almost no other differences were as large as 2 percent; the largest were
observed in the vocational category of the program type variable (25.9 percent
vs. 23.5 percent), Table 4. The percentage difference is very small and
cannot be expected to impact significantly on the study's findings.

The defaulter adjustment will be used throughout the defaulter analysis; it will allow the reader to interpret the following tables as providing estimates of the characteristics of the population in repayment and in the GSLS II files as of December 1973. The important point here is that compensating for bias by making the respondents "look" like the GSLS files allows

Table 3 CONTINGENCY TABLE FOR RESPONDENT/NONRESPONDENT BY LOAN STATUS (percent)

Borrower Status	Respondents	Universe
Death	0.1	0.1
Disability	0.0	0.1
Bankruptcy	0.1	0.1
Default	10.2	8.2
In Repayment	23.2	19.7
Paid in Full	12.3	14.2
Withdrawn	23.1	27.5
Graduate	30.1	29.8°
Unknown	0.7	/ 0.5

Adjustment--defaulters: 0.78 nondefaulters: 1.00

Table 4 CONTINGENCY TABLE FOR RESPONDENT/NONRESPONDENT BY PROGRAM TYPE

	(percent)	••
Program Type	Nonrespondents	Total
College and University	68.9	65.2
Junior College and Institute	8.6	8.6
Specialized and Vocational	23.5	25.9

4,903 respondent cases 7,800 total cases

inference about the files, but not necessarily about the <u>true</u> repayment population. Pecifically, adjusting the respondent default rate to the file default rate, when the actual default rate is probably much higher, cannot be said to truly compensate for this bias. Therefore, when default is examined, the percentages of defaulters with a given characteristic will be estimated and the ratio of default rates will be considered, but not the absolute percentage of a particular group who are defaulters.

No attempt will be made to estimate the precision of the estimates; however, each table will show the underlying number of responses in each relevant subpopulation. A reasonable measure of precision is (under the assumption that the characteristic is approximately binomial):

Standard Error =
$$\left[\frac{2 P(1-P)}{N}\right]^{1/2}$$

or, since P $(1-P) \le \frac{1}{4}$

Standard Error =
$$\left[\frac{1}{2 \text{ Cases}}\right]$$

See Figure 1. For quantitative variables, the usual sample standard deviation will sometimes be displayed.

^{1.4} While it is assumed that the central GSLP files include all loans guaranteed; inaccuracies in certain classification data for some loans (such as default/repayment status) will contribute to differences in defining the population of interest for this study; i.e., the borrowers in repayment.

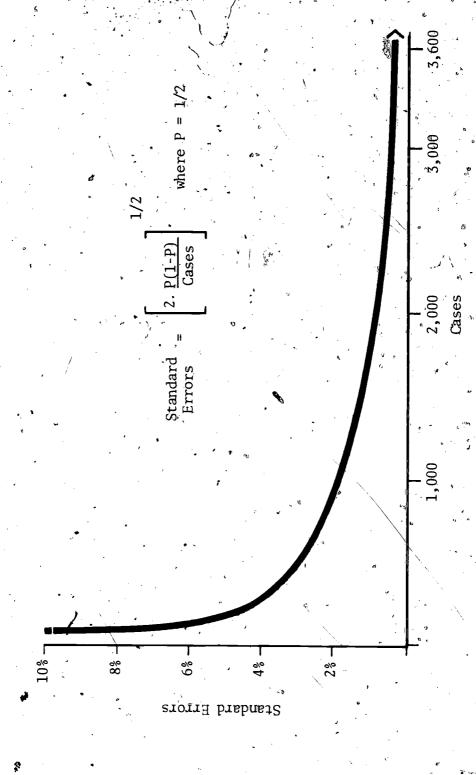


Figure 1: APPROXIMATE STANDARD ERRORS

SURVEY RESULTS

ANALYSIS APPROACH

This chapter presents and discusses the results of the survey of lender policies, procedures, and problems. As discussed in Chapter 2, the study design included a comprehensive questionnaire sent to a stratified, systematic sample of 784 eligible GSLP lenders. Although a separate chapter summarizes the results of the site visits to approximately 40 lenders, this chapter draws upon that information and experience when it can help interpret or explain the data from the mail survey. Data from Part II of the lender survey about specific borrowers in the RMC sample are discussed in the final section of this chapter.

Almost all the subjects covered by the questions are discussed in this chapter under the assumption that it is important to examine all available information that might help in understanding the behavior and attitudes of GSLP lending institutions.

There are two approaches to examining the data from the lender survey. A meaningful argument can be made for each, depending on the type of issue being examined or the type of decision-maker involved. The two approaches are to tabulate (or weight) the survey answers considering (1) each lender equally, or (2) the proportionate level of activity each lender has in GSLP.

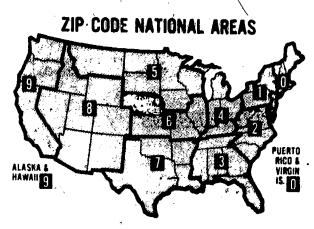
The first approach assumes each lender participating in GSLP is of equal interest to OE. In one sense, each lender that is unhappy or complains to its Congressman cannot be ignored. However, there is a wide range of lender sizes and OE should probably be more concerned if one or

more large lenders had serious problems or dropped out of GSLP. - Thus the second approach would explicitly take into account the impact of each lender respondent on the loan program by weighting its responses by its relative loan volume. In other words, instead of listening to each lender voice equally, each lender is considered to be speaking for the whole number of GSLP borrowers it represents. In the lender analysis and presentation that follow, RMC has taken this latter approach in most cases. Each lender response has been represented in the tabulation by its number of borrowers in repayment; this use is consistent with the defined interest of this study in the processes of repayment and default. (An alternative would have been to use total dollars invested in GSLP as a measure of a lender size, but an 'extremely close correlation, exists between the two measures in any case.) The end result is tabulations of total borrowers corresponding to a particular answer; appropriate inflations have been included for differential sampling proportions for lenders and for the size of the lender in the program. Estimates of population totals are not of concern since the analysis is in terms of proportions. Nonresponse adjustments were not judged necessary because the lender response rate was sufficiently high (about 70 percent) and since only proportions and ratios were needed for the analysis.

The analysis of the lender survey requires examining the mass of lender data from a variety of points of view. In fact, choosing the particular dimensions from among the many available that might provide insights into lender behavior or effects is an important task. RMC first examined (i.e., disaggregated) lender responses along several dimensions to see which ones were useful in explaining or understanding lending behavior. The criteria focused upon variables that had a logical or theoretical basis for affecting lender activities and that served to differentiate relationships in the actual survey data. The several variables that best suited this purpose have been used for further analysis and are brought into the

^{1.} Borrowers in repayment include all those who ever reached the point of becoming obligated for repayment, whether they actually repaid, defaulted, or are still repaying. This value was calculated from the OE GSLP master file (dated January 1, 1974) and is therefore consistent with the data and criteria used for selection of the lender sample. This source was considered preferable for weighting because it provided consistent data for all lenders.

subsequent discussions of this chapter wherever they contribute to identifying or explaining relationships. For example, the level of activity of a lender in GSLP varies greatly and almost all subsequent analyses separately consider the effect of this explanatory variable (measured by number of borrowers in repayment). Geographic location of the lender was separately used for cross-tabulations and is discussed in several places where it had a meaningful effect. For this study, geographical location was measured by the 10 ZIP Code national areas (identified by the first digit of the fivedigit ZIP Code). The type of lending institutions (i.e., commercial banks,



credit unions, etc.) was separately tabulated for most survey questions, but it was judged useful in only a small number of areas of investigation (particular because about 70 percent of GSLP loans are handled by one type--national and state commercial banks). In addition, other research has shown commercial lender type to be of little use in explaining GSLP default.

Consideration was given to looking separately at GSLP loans insured directly by the federal government and loans insured by state guarantee agencies. However, examination of state agency programs revealed such a wide variety of program differences that it is not logical to accept state agencies as a group to be a meaningful unit of analysis. The number of sample lenders in a given state is not large enough to do separate analysis on that basis.

RESPONSE PATTERN OF LENDERS

The overall response pattern of GSLP lenders in the RMC sample was very good. By the time the survey cut-off was applied, 512 completed responses had been received by RMC. In addition, these responses included another 41 sample lenders that were subsidiary to other sample lenders or had been otherwise consolidated. Since their financial data were consolidated and lender policies/management were common for each of these parent-subsidiary

combinations, it seemed appropriate to use their responses in the consolidated form. This problem of consolidation among lenders was recognized during the study design since the GSLP master file used for sampling provided no way of identifying such dependent status. The decision was made to treat as separate reporting units all sample lenders whose responses showed them to be separate decision-making units.

Including these consolidated lenders, a total of 553 lenders of the sample of 784 are accounted for by the final data, for a gross response rate of 70.5 percent. This response rate compares very well with rates obtained from other lender surveys with which we are familiar. RMC was told informally that the American Banking Association (ABA) questionnaires to its commercial bank members often obtained about a 50 percent response rate. In addition, many of the regular or special requests to GSLP lenders for information sent out by the GSL program office produced response rates much lower than 70 percent.

With a response rate on the order of 70 percent, RMC believes any bias from nonresponse is likely to be small and have little, if any, effect on conclusions drawn from the analysis of the data. Therefore, no attempt has been made to adjust the lender data for nonresponse. However, one area of differential response that might be expected (and could be examined) is by lender size. Table 82 presents the results of that examination. It is seen that larger lenders (as measured by GSLP borrowers in repayment) responded at a somewhat higher rate than small lenders. This effect is probably a combination of (1) the tendency of small lenders not taking the time to complete the survey form (some said they did not have the time or the manpower available), and (2) during the telephone follow-up to nonresponding lenders, RMC concentrated on the larger lenders to have as many GSLP borrowers represented as possible. As a result, if any nonresponse bias exists it would be toward over-representation of larger lenders (only if their responses are different from other lenders). In most of the analysis in this chapter, lender responses are examined separately by lender size to ensure the ability to isolate any possible bias.

^{1.} Alternatively, it could be considered that those 41 lenders should not have been identified separately in the universe (or in the sample), reducing the effective sample size to 743.

Table 5 LENDER RESPONSE RATE BY LENDER SIZE

			<u> </u>
Lender Size (borrowers in repayment)	Sample Lenders	Responding Lenders	Response Rate (percent)
0-100	210	127	; 60
100-199	121	76	63
200-299	68	48	71
300-499	96	65	68
500-999	97	71	73
1,000-1,999	84	′ 69	82
2,000-2,999	25.	18	72
3,000-3,999	9	8	89
4,000-4,999	10	9	90
5,000 and over	23	21	91
Total	743 ^a	512 ^a	69

a. Not listed separately are 41 lenders in the original sample that were reported to be consolidated or merged with other lenders in the sample. Data covering those lenders are included in other lender responses.



The response rates above are based upon unweighted data that consider each lender equally, irrespective of its size or probability of sample selection. The discussion of survey results in subsequent sections is based on data that were normalized to reflect the fact that certain sized lenders were selected with greater probability. After adjusting for sampling ratios, the responding lenders represent 1,112,000 borrowers, which is 71 percent of the total 1,564,343 borrowers known to be in the repayment universe at the time of the sample selection. Even though this survey can only technically make assumptions about the remaining nonresponding group, RMC believes that conclusions and recommendations based upon the lender experience with over 1.1 million GSLP borrowers ought to be on fairly solid ground.

LENDER PARTICIPATION IN OSLP

The level and trends in the participation of eligible lenders in the Guaranteed Student Loan Program is a significant question for the Office of Education. Without the availability of investment funds from lenders, there would be no loan program. The success of the program is directly dependent on such participation, but it is basically voluntary on the part of the lenders. Except for persuasion and exhortation, OE cannot force the lenders to commit funds to this program. It is hoped that some combination of the ability to obtain interest on funds loaned and service to the community and to lender customers will motivate lenders to commit funds to the program. During 1973 and 1974, the level of participation by lenders started to decline and the Office of Education was concerned that lenders would eliminate or decrease their dollar participation. As a result, this subject became one area of focus for the current survey to lenders.

Fspecially during the past two years, it is likely that there has been an interaction of many factors affecting lenders' motivation to commit funds. During part of this period, modification to the federal legislation instituted a needs analysis as a criterion for determining the amount of loan funds an individual student needed and could be loaned. In addition to creating a somewhat confusing situation about the amount of guaranteed loan funds a student could be provided, this requirement tended to reduce the ...

^{1.} RMC did not collect data nor conduct analysis on the effect of this needs analysis requirement since its recent introduction date prevented its having much impact on the areas of default and repayment, which were the main areas of the study.

average size of loans. Another important factor that operated during this period was the unusually high commercial interest rates (which implied a high cost for funds obtained by lending institutions). National economic conditions remained unsettled and uncertain during this period as well.

It is important to recognize that lenders answered the questions to this survey during the third quarter of 1974 (and in the fourth quarter for slow respondents). As a result, their answers to some questions might have been different at an earlier or later period. In fact, the site visits at lenders during the fourth quarter of 1974 and the first quarter of 1975 revealed signs of increasing interest in GSLP investments, probably motivated by the declining commercial interest rates and slowing demand for business loans (which constitute alternative investment opportunities).

One section of the RMC lender survey asked lenders what importance their institutions attached to various reasons for continuing participation in GSLP. Table 6 presents the results of the lender replies. Lenders identity three reasons as very unimportant in their decisions to participate in the The most interesting of these is the profitability of the loan. In other words, even though almost all of the participating lenders are in business to make an overall profit, by far the bulk of the respondents said this reason was either not important or only somewhat important in governing their participation. This factor ranked fourth out of six factors identified. In one sense, the intensity of this reply is surprising, particularly given the strong tendency among the lenders interviewed during our site visits to be concerned about the low profitability and high cost of operating the GSLP. Admittedly, there may be a factor here of lenders wanting to maintain 'a good image; i.e., being known as service-oriented rather than profitoriented, especially concerning government-guaranteed loans for educational This question could also have been interpreted by lenders to refer only to the situations where profits were positive; i.e., income exceeded cost. During our site visit interviews, it was commonly expressed that the lender would be satisfied if the program at least broke even (recovered the lender's cost of operation, including the cost of money) and that a positive profit in excess of this was not really needed to justify participation. In the same breath, however, the lenders added that they could not really justify accepting significant losses to remain in the program. Even recognizing these qualifications, it appears significant that the bulk of the lenders

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Table 6 LENDER REASONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN GSLP

l		Evaluation ^{a,b}	q'	
Lender Reasons for Participation in GSLP	Very Important (percent)	Somewhat Important (percent)	Not Important (percent) .	Rank -
The profitability of the loans	13	36	51	4
A service to family members of existing customers	71:	17	12	2
As access to potential future customers	39	47	. 14	3.
Service to clients of an affiliated educational institution	6	20	71	S
General assistance to the community in assisting educational attendance and financing	20	. 56	2 -	H
Federal government request or encouragement for participation	7	44	49	9

- Lender Data percentages of responding lenders answering this survey question. nonresponse on this question averaged about 12 percent to 14 percent.
- Lender responses have been weighted by number of borrowers in repayment.
- Rank is based on lender identification of factor as either first or second most important to that institution.

claimed in a formal questionnaire that the profitability of the loans was not a very important factor in their GSLP investment decisions.

At the same time, however, a strong lack of importance was attached to the federal government's request or encouragement for GSLP participation. The federal leverage here is admittedly limited. This statement on the part of the lender indicates that incentives and technical assistance may be more important in obtaining lender commitments than a mass of rhetoric appealing to their support of public policy and federal goals.

The third unimportant area involved service to clients of an affiliated educational institution (which rated as extremely unimportant in the lenders' view). This area was investigated partly because of claims that close ties between educational institutions (particularly vocational-oriented) and lenders had led, or could lead, to abuses of GSLP. Our site visits to a few of these school lenders indicated this factor had an extremely important effect for some particular institutions. It may well be that this factor was very important for the small number of institutions affected, but highly unimportant for the large number of institutions not affected. In answer to a separate question, 13.5 percent of the lenders surveyed stated that they did have an association with a particular educational institution such that many or all of the school students received their GSLP loans through that institution. (In only 19 percent of these cases, the lenders and schools were both affiliates of a common parent company; the rest of the lenders conducted a large amount of school banking activities.)

The reasons having the highest positive impact on lender participation in the program was clearly service to family members of existing customers and general assistance to the community in assisting educational attendance and financing. Of course, both of these are key elements in the lender's claim to serving the community. Our site visits found many institutions where access to GSLP loans was restricted to present customers of the lenders or their family members. This was verified by the fact that, in a separate question, 61 percent of the lenders in this survey indicated they always determined whether the applicant or his family was a current customer when they processed the original GSLP loan application. In some cases, the lenders used their customer requirement as a way of rationing the availability of limited GSLP loan funds. It also reflects the lender's view of the objective of the program.

Access to potential future customers was listed as an important reason, but at a much lower level of intensity. This, of course, is related to the



business interests of the institution in that granting a GSLP loan would theoretically create future economic benefits by bringing in customers for other lending activities.

The righthand column in Table 6 ranks the reasons for lender participation based on the lenders' identification of the two most important, factors for their institutions. The rank shown is based on the combined effect of the factor being either first or second. The rank order of importance is consistent with the previous discussions of the factors considered on an individual basis: service to the community and customers rank as most important, with federal government request and service to affiliated institutions as the lowest. 1

In later questions, RMC asked if there were conditions that would encourage the lender to substantially increase the level of its current financial participation in the GSLP. Over 70 percent of these lenders answered no to this question. This 70 percent represents 52 percent of the borrowers in repayment, thus indicating that small GSLP lenders are even more reluctant to increase their participation than large lenders. The question gave examples of such changes as operating procedures of GSLP, the money market, interest rates of GSLP loans, or terms of repayment. The fact that changes in any of these conditions would not encourage 70 percent of the lenders participating in the program to increase their current level should be very significant to the Office of Education if it attempts to prevent declines in total dollar participation or to increase that total.

Table 7 presents the results of RMC's question concerning short-range expectations of the lenders with regard to GSLP. It is seen that only a small percent of lenders expect to cease lending under the program. This information is important because at one time there was strong concern about lenders dropping out--even to the point of threats by some lenders to carry out this action. In the same vein, lenders representing only 12 percent of the GSLP borrowers plan to significantly reduce their current level of lending. Most lenders (49 percent) plan to continue their present level or state

^{1.} The rank order of these factors was essentially the same when responses were weighted equally by lenders or by their GSLP volume, thus indicating lender reasons for participating were not materially affected by size. The only major difference involved an interchange of the first and second ranked factors. Small lenders tended to evaluate service to existing customers higher and large lenders evaluated general assistance to the community higher.



Table 7
LENDER GSLP PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

	, , , , , , , , ,
Lender Short-term Expectations for GSLP Participation ^{a, b}	Percent ^C
Plan to cease new lending	6
Plan to reduce lending 10 percent or more	12
Plan to continue present level (plus or minus 10 percent)	49
Plan to increase lending 10 percent or more	6
Participation will depend on customer demand	23

- a. Lender responses have been weighted by borrowers in repayment.
- b. Lender nonresponse on this question was only 1.5 percent.
- c. Above items do not add to 100 percent because of respondent use of "other" category to reflect a variety of miscellaneous expectations.



that their participation level depends directly on customer demand (23 percent). At the same time, only 6 percent of the lenders have plans to significantly increase their level of lending. Presumably, this short-term expectation situation should reflect possible impacts on the total GSL program since these data have been weighted based on the number of borrowers in repayment and almost all sample respondents answered this question. The distribution of lender expectations reflects the lenders intentions at the time of the survey (which was a time of a very tight money market) during which lenders were likely to have reassessed their policies. All in all, the stated lender expectations indicate a viable situation concerning the availability of loan funds. It would appear that expectations leading to declines in participation would be even less under better and more stable national economic conditions.

Table 8 summarizes the lender criticisms that discourage GSLP investment. The survey asked the lender to evaluate various factors that might discourage it from continuing or increasing participation. The relative importance of these various lender disincentives is obtained from a question that asked the lender to specify the two most important disincentives. The righthand column in Table 8 presents the combined rank based on the factors that were identified as either first or second. "Low interest rates compared to competing uses of funds" was clearly the most important disincentive to lenders. This is not surprising at all and warrants no further investigation. While seven other criticisms are evaluated about the same (very important), two factors are rated unimportant: the high cost of processing payments is only "somewhat important" and other student assistance programs are strongly "not important."

The second ranked criticism is "government delays in paying claims against defaulters." The larger lenders ranked this factor high as a disincentive. In fact, this factor shifted from ranking sixth when lenders were weighted equally to ranking second when weighted by borrowers in repayment. When examining this variable by lender size categories, RMC found that lenders representing over 78 percent of the borrowers in the largest banks (over 5,000 borrowers in repayment) rated this factor "very important." The larger GSLP lenders must have been more intensely affected by claim delays in the recent past.

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Table 8 LENDER CRITICISMS THAT, DISCOURAGE GSLP INVESTMENT

		Evaluation ^a ,b	q	•
Lender Criticisms	Very Important (percent)	Somewhat Important (percent)	Not Important (percent)	Rank
(1) Low interest rates compared to competing use of funds	73	21	9	1
(2) Low total revenue.	51	, .31	, 18	4
(3) High default or claim rate	. 21	37	12	. 5
(4) Long repayment period	39	47	14	3
(5) High cơst of processing payments	23	54	24	6
(6) High total cost of GSLP loans	46	. 42	- 12	7
(7) Difficulty locating the borrowers at repayment time	52	36	12	8
(8) Government delays in paying claims against defaulters	55	27	18	2
(9) Too much unnecessary paper work	48	, 41	11	9
(10) Other programs for student assistance are more efficient	5.	22	. 73	10

Data are percentages of responding lenders answering the survey question. Lender nonresponse on this question was small--ranging from 3 percent to 6 percent except number 3 (16 percent) and number 10 (11 percent).

o. Data have been weighted to reflect sampling criteria.

Rank is based on lender identification of factor as either the first or the second most important to that institution.

4

55

This relative concern of the lenders should be of use to the GSLP in its dealings with lenders as well as those planners concerned with changes in the legislation and program guidelines. These factors reflect the self-interest of the lenders, but at the same time identify the areas of possible improvement that are likely to have significant impacts on the participation levels of lenders. There are, of course, costs to the federal government for improvements in some of these areas (such as high interest rates) against which contemplated changes must be compared.

RMC also asked an open-ended question of the lenders to identify conditions that would encourage increased GSLP participation. The various suggestions of the lenders in response to this question were coded and categorized by RMC and the results are presented in Table 9. Λ total of -3.102 separate suggestions were identified from approximately 30 percent of the lenders who admitted their commitment of loan funds could be increased under certain conditions. The bulk of these suggestions for changes related in one way or another to the economic return to the lender. /Increased interest rates were the most common, followed by reduced administrative costs, reduced cost of borrowed money, and shorter repayment periods. All but one of these factors are potentially under the control of the Office of Education or Congress: The fluctuating rate of interest in the money market (the cost of money to the lender) is determined by a combination of market conditions. The types and frequencies of these suggestions are consistent with the inter-Wiew with lenders during site visits, although, of course, site visits did not necessarily include a representative sample of lenders.

Table 9 also presents the percentage distribution of the suggestions offered, weighted both by lenders equally and by borrowers in repayment. The relative rank of the categories is essentially the same under both weighting approaches except for two cases (both of which deal with low-frequency items). When the large GSLP lender suggestions are given weight proportional to the borrowers they represent, increasing the special allowance becomes much more desired (and increasing interest rates less desired). Similarly, establishing a GSLP central administrative agency that would process loan records, pursue collection, and trace missing borrowers for the lenders becomes far less desired when the large lenders carry more weight. Clearly, the larger lenders prefer incremental changes in the special allowance to regular interest rates. Moreover, they probably see no need for a central agency to handle GSLP administration because their size already benefits from economies of scale.

Table 9

LENDER SUGGESTIONS OF CONDITIONS THAT WOULD
ENCOURAGE INCREASED GSLP LOAN FUNDS

			
	•	Total Su	nt of ggestions
Category of Change	Number of	When Lenders	When. Weighted by
0	Suggestions Offered	Weighted Equally	Borrowers in Repayment
Administrative costs	508,	. 17	18
Interest rates	1,322	43	35
Cost of money	463	15	17
Shorter repayment periods	310	10	10
Increase special allowance in lieu of higher interest	, 37	1	6
More prompt attention to default claims /	136	4	4
Establish central agency to handle administration	125		
100 percent guarantee of interest and principal ^a	35	1	1
Miscellaneous	166	5	9 (
Total	3,102	100	100

a. Supposedly suggested by lenders in states where state guarantee agents do not already provide a 100 percent guarantee.

RMC asked lenders to explain the reasons that prompted their expected changes of 10 percent or more (increase or decrease) in GSLP loan investment. Table 10 summarizes the types and distribution of over 1,500 reasons that were provided (of course, many lenders indicated more than one). Even though only about 18 percent of the lenders had reason to answer this question, RMC is providing a full description of the results under the assumption that the Office of Education will find this background useful in its planning and operations with lenders. The answers provided by lenders to this open-ended question were coded and categorized by RMC for presentation in Table 10.

Of the reasons given for expected decreases in participation, the bulk relate to economic motivations; i.e., interest rates are not high enough, administrative costs are too high, and the cost of funds is too high. The fact that high default rate was frequently cited may be surprising since theoretically no losses occur in GSLP from this cause. However, some circumstances led to losses of interest income before default claims are paid, and in addition there may be a psychological public relations effect when the default rate becomes very high. The time period necessary for the maintenance of GSLP records was cited, but it constituted only a small percent of the total reasons given. During our lender site visits, this reason (and the associated complaint of excessive government paper work requirements) was often mentioned as a discouraging factor. The more complete picture represented by Table 10 apparently shows that time is of far less concern than the economic-related areas in leading to behavior changes by lenders. The tabulations of Table 10 show the frequency distribution of reasons when (1) lenders are weighted equally, and (2) when weighted by their GSLP level of activity. The shifts between these two approaches show that large lenders are much more concerned about high administrative costs, high default rates, and high cost of funds than the smaller lenders; correspondingly, they are far less interested in high interest rates and record maintenance requirements.

Three reasons were given for expected increases in GSLP participation, although the frequency of mention was not high. Some lenders expected

Table 10

LENDER JUSTIFICATION FOR EXPECTED CHANGES
IN GSLP LOAN INVESTMENT.

***		Percent of			
	8	Total When	Reasons When		
Reasons for Expected Change	Number of Reasons	Lenders Weighted	Weighted by Borrowers		
,	Offered	Equally	in Repayment		
EVDECTED DECREAGE		•			
EXPECTED DECREASE:		البر الا الا	c Ø		
Interest rates	392 °	٠ 25	. 11		
Administrative costs	" [°] 176 [″]	. 11	20		
High default rate	86 -	" ~ 6 '	16 ,		
Cost of funds	77	, 5 .	20		
Time period necessary for maintenance	63	4	2		
Government methods of repayment	36	4	, 4		
Availability of funds	34	4 '	3		
EXPECTED INCREASE:					
If Sallie Mae used	151	10	4		
Increased demand	93	6	5.		
Community relationships	93	• 6	×1		
MISCELLANEOUS:	291	19	14		
Total .	1,532	100	100		

a.. Expected changes of 10 percent or more.



increases if Sallie Mae (Federal Student Loan Fund) was used. The other two reasons given for increases are increased demands for loans and community relationships—both of which are affected in very limited ways by OE policy decisions.

RMC attempted to obtain measures of lender behavior by asking about the lenders' views on how the GSLP should be operated to constitute a sound educational loan program. They were specifically asked how important they considered, each of the listed factors in approving GSLP loans. Table 11 summarizes the lender views on these desirable borrower characteristics. Presumably the same preferences would be applied by the lender whenever it has a choice or a more subtle opportunity to influence outcomes. Several factors are rated very important. The two highest are that the applicant should not have many other debts and that the applicant should not receive a subsidized loan greater than the school-certified financial need. Although the lender may be concerned with what is best for the borrower (i.e., that he not be eventually overburdened with personal debts), this factor also reflects the "banker's" concein for an ability to repay even though the loan is guaranteed. Consistent with this is a relatively high belief that the applicant's financial situation should indicate a low probability of default. Given the objectives of the GSLP and the government guarantee against default, it is interesting that the lender should be so concerned about this point.

Another very highly related category was that the applicant of his family should be a customer of the lending institution. This apparently reflects the lenders' conception of GSLP as a vehicle to fulfill the needs of their customers. At the same time, of course, limiting loans to customers can be used as a method for limiting total GSLP investment when that is desired,

^{1.} Since the potential use of Sallie Mae may be of interest to OE planners, RMC examined the distribution of this reason in more detail. In terms of geographical location, about 40 percent were grouped in ZIP Code Area 4 (North Central), 20 percent in ZIP Code Area 0 (New England), and 10 percent in ZIP Code Area 1 (New York/Pennsylvania), ZIP Code Area 2 (Middle Atlantic), ZIP Code Area 8 (West Central), and ZIP Code Area 9 (West Coast). In terms of lender size, far more of the lenders having smaller numbers of GSLP borrowers gave Sallie Mae as reason for expected increase than did larger lenders. This effect is also shown in Table 10, where 10 percent of the lenders gave Sallie Mae as a reason, but this accounted for only 4 percent of total GSLP borrowers in repayment. Almost all the Sallie Mae citations were given by commercial banks rather than other lender types, but this is not unexpected since such lenders constitute a high percentage of the GSLP loans. It must be remembered in interpreting these Sallie Mae breakdowns that the total number of citations was relatively small.

such as when interest rate conditions mean lower lender profitability for GSLP loans. All these above elements are consistent with information provided by lenders to other questions in this survey and comments received during the the site visit interviews.

Several other factors listed in Table 11 are seen as primarily unimportant by the lender. One interesting factor is an apparent lack of concern for the applicant being other than a first-year student. In other words, loans are granted independently of the student's status within a school program. About one-sixth of the lenders interviewed during the site visits had such restrictions; they felt these restrictions kept their default rates down. This requirement is also an effective way of limiting demand for new GSLP loans when the lending institutions want to achieve that objective. Such a restriction also effectively prohibits loans to most vocational school students. Many lending institutions interviewed expressed the belief that lower risks of nonrepayment or financial difficulty for the borrower existed if the borrower had already completed at least one year of school. While it is true that a higher percentage of first-year students default, it remains a value judgment whether this should be an eligibility criterion.

Lenders similarily believe it is not important that the applicant be attending a degree-granting institution, as opposed to a vocational-training institute. During our site visits, many lenders expressed preferences for avoiding the vocational training segment in the belief (justified by facts) that the default rate for this group was considerably higher. Other lenders felt that, since Congress defines the vocational school students as fully eligible borrowers, this means the government is willing to fully underwrite the resulting default situation. Therefore, most lenders go along with the vocational school eligibility.

Almost all lenders do not believe that minority groups should be favored over others. While it would be illegal to discriminate by race in the awarding of these loans, there also appears to be no preference toward reverse discrimination.

Almost all lenders also felt that particular age groups should not be given priority. However, during its site visit interviews, RMC found some lenders that limited loans to borrowers under certain ages (usually 26) on the assumption that students above that age were more able to provide for their own expenses and less likely to succeed in their educational programs.

Table 11
LENDER VIEWS OF DESIRABLE GSLP BORNOWER CHARACTERISTICS^a,^b (percent)

Lender Views of Desirable GSLP Borrower Characteristics	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Applicant should be attending a degree- granting institution (not a vocational or specialized training institution)	22	24	. 54 .
Applicant should <u>not</u> be a first-year student	30	16	54
Applicant or his family should be a customer of the lending institution	47	30 ,	23
Applicant should not receive more for a subsidized loan than the amount of financial need certified by his school	80	15•	5 -
Applicant should be attending particular schools in your local operating area	10	30 •	60
Applicant should show a strong academic record.	27	55	18
Applicant's financial situation should indicate low probability of default	44	3 9	17
Applicant should not have too many other debts	69	27	4
Minority groups should be favored over others	1	10	89
Particular age groups should be excluded	- 4	14	82

- a. Data are percentages of responding lenders answering the question. Lender nonresponse for this question was very small--not exceeding 1.3 percent on any part.
- b. Lender responses have been weighted by number of borrowers in repayment.

Clearly, this is not a commonly held view based on the responses from this representative sample of lenders.

To better understand the influence of certain types of lenders on the factors summarized in Table 11, RMC cross-tabulated those responses by lender size and geographic location. The interesting relationships that emerged are discussed below.

As far as attending a degree-granting institution, more large lenders said this was important (i.e., large lenders tend to prefer degree programs and would therefore not accept vocational students). In terms of borrowers in repayment, there was a definite relationship that the larger the lender size, the greater the preference toward students in degree programs. When examined by ZIP Code location, a difference was found indicating that ZIP Code National Area 9 (California, Oregon, and Washington) felt, much more than any other ZIP area, that applicants should be attending degree-granting institutions. This could be the result of recent poor (i.e., high) default experience with many vocational school loans, particularly in California.

As far as being a first-year student, ZIP Area 9 stood out much above all others as feeling it is important to be other than a first-year student. All sizes of lenders felt about the same concerning first-year students.

Customer relationship requirements were also related to lender size. A significant number of large lenders (in terms of GSLP borrowers in repayment) felt it less important for the applicant to have a customer relationship than did smaller lenders. While fewer lenders in ZIP Areas 2, 7, and 8 thought it was important to have a customer relationship, ZIP Areas 3, 4, 5, and 9 had more lenders than average stating this was important.

The other interesting characteristic was related to the applicant's financial situation indicating low probability of default (even though GSLP guarantees against default). Larger lenders considered this factor important at a significantly lesser rate than smaller lenders. More lenders than average in ZIP Areas 8 and 9 think it is important to be in good financial condition and less than average in ZIP Areas 0 and 7 think it is important.

A summary of common relationships reveals that, relative to small lenders, large lenders lean toward borrowers in degree-granting institutions without requiring prior customer relationships and without considering financial conditions. ZIP Code Area 9 (West Coast) préfers to exclude first-year students, include degree program students, include students in good financial

condition, and include students with prior customer relationships (more so than other ZIP Code areas).

LENDER GSLP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

One objective of the current study was to obtain more information about the policies that govern GSLP lender activities and procedures followed in administering GSLP loans. In addition to being useful to OE in its normal operations, knowing the different lenders' policies and procedures may be an important factor in explaining and understanding other lender behavior, such as default rates and loan investment levels. The following sections present and discuss information in the area of policies and procedures based on the lender replies to several related questions on the survey form.

One area of inquiry was the kind of appraisals (financial or otherwise) that a lender makes of a GLSP applicant when deciding to approve or reject the loan. Lenders were asked to check how often certain types of appraisals were made. Table 12 presents the results of their replies. Not surprisingly, almost all lenders (representing 96 percent of the borrowers) state that they always check eligibility against GSLP regulations. It may be more surprising that the other 4 percent do not, but there may be some special cases where an organization other than the lender does this eligibility checking. 1 Almost half of the lenders said that they always or frequently check personal or family credit experience. This is an interesting fact since one purpose of the GSLP is to provide credit where the young student or his family does not have an established record. In this regard, the GSLP loan is guaranteed by the government against nonrepayment. One explanation may be related to statements of some lenders during site visits that loans under GSLP would not be granted if the person or his immediate family had defaulted on previous loans or had particularly bad credit experience. Most lenders did not check students' past school records very often and this is consistent with the purpose of the program, which relates to financial need rather than academic ability.



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^{1.} For example, site visits in Puerto Rico found that the Bankers Association of Puerto Rico did the original processing of loan applications on a consolidated basis.

Table 12

LENDER APPRAISALS MADE DURING PROCESSING OF GSLP LOAN APPLICATIONS (percent)

				87.
-		Eval	uation ^{a,b}	The second second
Appraisal Checks	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely or Never
Check eligibility against GSLP regulations	96 .	2	1	1
Check personal or family credit experience	26	22	25	37
Check student's past school record	16	-16	27	41
Determine whether applicant or his family is current customer	62	9	10	19
Assess the program or school the applicant is pursuing (academic versus vocational)	30	8 ~	26	36
Compare to your previous history with similar applicants	12	17	21	50

- a. Data are percentages of responding lenders answering the question.

 Lender nonresponse for this question was very small--not exceeding

 7.5 percent on any part.
- b. Lender responses have been weighted by number of borrowers in repayment.





Perhaps the most interesting of the factors is that 62 percent of the lenders always (and another 9 percent frequently) determined whether the applicant or his family was a current customer. This implies a requirement (or at least a strong preference) for this status for receiving an approved However, nothing in the purpose or regulations of GSLP relates to this criterion. Still, it is understandable if the usual loan process and objectives of the lenders are considered. RMC cross-tabulated this variable by ZIP Code to help investigate how lender customer requirements are related to geographic location. These requirements do vary by geographic area, based on the lender responses. While the United States average was 62 percent, ZIP Code Areas 2 (Middle Atlantic), 4 (Great Lakes), and 9 (West Coast) had much higher percentages of borrowers represented by lenders who always appraise customer status of applicant (79 percent, 81 percent, and 80 percent, respectively). In contrast, ZIP Code Areas 6 (Central Plains) (South Central), and 8 (West Central) always appraised customer status much less than average (44 percent, 43 percent, and 46 percent, respectively). Several lender site visits revealed another type of geographic effect. Within a specific lending market area (e.g., a city or SMSA), if one lender limited GSLP loans to customers, the other lenders tended to do the same. Their rationale was that otherwise a more liberal lender would end up with more than its share of GSLP loans, which by their claim was unprofitable for each loan.

A specific relationship is also evident based on lender size. If the borrowers in repayment always affected by customer status appraisals are cross-tabulated by lender size, it becomes clear that smaller lenders are the ones who regularly check customer status. All lender size categories smaller than 3,000 borrowers in repayment always appraise customer status significantly more than average (with those below 300 borrowers being the highest), and lenders above 3,000 always do so significantly less than average.

Two-thirds of the lenders never or only sometimes assessed the academic or vocational nature of the applicant's school. Certainly GSLP regulations allow loans for attending any eligible school, but our site visits showed some lenders do not welcome or allow loans for vocational programs. It would appear from the survey that only one-third of the lenders are seriously concerned about this issue. While experience clearly shows (and the lenders apparently recognize) that a higher default rate exists

among vocational school borrowers, the GSLP guarantee against nonrepayment equally covers vocational situations. Over 70 percent of the lenders do not normally compare the applicant against the previous history of similar applicants. This is consistent with the absence of such criteria as a basis for loan approval.

Another area of great interest to OE and others concerned with the collection and default process is the particular activities carried out by the lenders when they find it difficult to locate a GSLP borrower whose loan has come due. GSLP regulations require lenders to carry out reasonable but unspecified attempts to find the borrowers during this "due diligence" period before a claim can be submitted to the government guarantee agency. The survey included a question about how many times certain activities were used in the process of trying to contact a borrower before filing a default claim.

Table 13 summarizes the experience of the lenders. Telephone calls and letters are the primary method of follow-up and a significant number are used for a given loan. This is very consistent with RMC's observations and answers obtained during the site visits. When it comes to using a private skip trace or credit bureau to locate the borrower, almost twothirds of the lenders never make use of such service. An interesting variant here is the relative use of this tracing service by different types of lenders. The respective percentages of those normally using this service at least once per case are: commercial banks (42 percent), savings and loans (22 percent), credit unions (21 percent), mutual savings banks (32 percent), and vocational schools (15 percent). Since commercial banks are much more regularly involved in installment loan and collection activities, it is perhaps understandable why they make more use of credit bureaus and other tracing services. More of the larger leviders do not make use of such private tracing services, but this may mean they can use their own internal collection and tracing services.

^{1.} If lenders were consistent and rational in their behavior, it might be expected that, if they went to a lot of trouble to check personal or credit experience, they would also compare the previous history with similar applicants. Otherwise, how would they know if it was useful or valid to judge an applicant on that basis? To investigate their relationship, RMC prepared a cross-tabulation of these two factors. Of the 62 percent who always appraise credit experience, only 32 percent also always appraise the history of similar applicants (another 26 percent frequently do, 26 percent sometimes do, and 15 percent never do). Consistency is therefore not a strong factor in this aspect of lender behavior.



Table 13 LENDER PRE-CLAIM EXPERIENCE (percent)

Pre-Claim Collection Methods	Once	Two or Three Times	More than Three Times	Not at • All
Telephone calls	8	34	59 .	7 1
Letters, telegrams, or mail- grams	2	21	77	
Private skip-trace service or credit bureau	25 ·	9	3	63
U.S. Office of Education pre- claim assistance program * (mailgram service)	64	6	2	28
Communication with borrower's relatives	_{#_} 28	49	22	$\int 1$
Communication with borrower's school(s)	58	22-	9	11

- Data are percentages of responding lenders answering the question.

 Lender nonresponse for this question was very small--not exceeding 7.2 percent.
- b. Lender responses have been weighted by number of borrowers in repayment.

The use of the next collection method was particularly interesting to the Office of Education when this study was originally designed. This method is the pre-claim assistance program offered by the Office of Education to lenders that send a mailgram (telegram by mail) to borrowers who do not otherwise respond. Replies indicate that lenders representing 28 percent of the repayment population have never used this service, but that the remainder normally use it once or more in trying to contact the borrower before filing a default claim. The differential experience by types of lenders is also of interest. The respective percentages of lenders regularly using mailgrams one or more times per case are: commercial banks (66 percent), savings and loans (73 percent), credit unions (64 percent), mutual savings banks (43 percent), and vocational schools (100 percent). It is very interesting that all vocational schools report they always use this service at least once. This may be because of particular efforts by OE in assisting such schools with their larger-than-average collection problems.

The last two pre-claim methods involved communication with borrowers' relatives or schools. It is seen that lenders almost always attempt to contact the borrower's relatives one or more times. In contrast, 11 percent of the lenders never contact the borrower's school when attempting to locate the borrower. During the site visit interviews, lenders very consistently described their difficulties and lack of results in obtaining information on student status or location from the schools.

A related procedure concerns the methods that lenders use in establishing repayment terms. Again, this is of interest for a better understanding of program operations, but it is also a possible explanation of borrower default. Lenders were specifically asked about how frequently they used the specified procedures in establishing repayment for borrowers in normal situations. The question also specifically stated that it did not refer to procedures used for locating and collecting from defaulters once repayment terms had been established. Lenders probably interpreted the question to refer to nondefaulters only since many defaulters never reach the point of establishing repayment terms. Table 14 summarizes the lender responses. It is seen that lenders use a mixed package of mail, telephone, and personal meetings to establish repayment terms. While only a small percent of lenders always utilized telephone or face to-face meetings, almost all the rest did so frequently or sometimes. Probably because of the heavy work load involved, the larger lenders used face-to-face meetings at a much lower level than

Table 14

LENDER METHODS FOR ESTABLISHING INITIAL REPAYMENT TERMS WITH BORROWERS (percent)

Methods	Evaluation ^a ,b				
Methods	Always	Frequently	Sometimes,	Never	
Face-to-face meeting with borrower	9	41	52 *	5	
Telephone contact with borrower	8	, 43	46	3	
Mail correspondence with borrower	57	29	13	1 "	
Working through a state guarantee agency	2	3	34	61	
Working through another third party	10	8	42	40	

- a. Lender nonresponse varies between 2 percent and 9 percent.
- b. Lender responses have been weighted by number of borrowers in repayment.

smaller lenders. Mail correspondence with borrowers is always used 57 percent of the time and frequently or sometimes used for the rest of the borrowers. Limited use is made of third parties in establishing repayment terms. Information from site visit interviews and other sources indicates that lenders had little problem in establishing repayment terms once the contact had been established with the borrower; the real problem was in finding the borrowers.

A somewhat different area of lender procedures also investigated by the study was the way in which the lender was organized to administer the GSLP. One speculation raised during the questionnaire design task was that the way in which the lender was internally organized to carry out GSLP activities could well affect how it viewed the program and what success it had. Of course, until this survey, there was no systematic information available on how the lender organized itself to carry out its activities. Therefore, a question was included in the lender survey seeking this information. In addition, the interviews during the lender site visits also investigated this area. In overall terms, the following results were obtained when each lender was considered equally (i.e., no weighting by lender size):

- 4 percent of the lenders have a specific department that handles nothing but GSLP loans,
- 69 percent of the lenders have personnel within one of the departments who are assigned to GSLP loans, and
- 27 percent of the lenders have a variety of other types of organizations. 1

This organizational distribution is in comparison to the overall type of lending unit indicated by the responding lenders (weighted equally) as follows:

- 42 percent--headquarters with decentralized units,
- 10 percent--branch of a larger lending organization,
- 36 percent--independent, unaffiliated organization, and
- 12 percent--other.

It might be expected that the size of the lender (in terms of number of borrowers) has a big effect on how it is organized. Although 4 percent of the lenders have separate departments for GSLP, this category accounts for 34 percent of the borrowers in repayment.

^{1.} Many of the "other" categories involve such things as two or more centralized GSLP departments within separate branches of the lender.

During our stite visits; we also found a variety of organizational structures. Based on these few cases, the type of internal organization seemed to be related to the cycle of GSLP development for the lender. when GSLP started, volume and default/collection problems were not large. Administration of GSLP loans was usually done as a part of a lender's other installment loan activities. Changes were often made when evolution of these GSLP borrower's brought a large number of them into the repayment and collection phases, and unique types of problems began to be evident. For some lenders, this maturing of loans also brought large default problems. Additional type's of specialized needs were created, such as tracing lost borrowers, preparing claims, and following up on collection problems. When this growing or maturing GSLP loan structure caused these latter problems to become significant, lenders often established separate departments with CSLP responsibility. This evolution is not surprising--it is basically a reflection of two criteria: economies of scale and giving specialized attention to the more serious problems. RMC found a variety of organizational arrangements within the lenders interviewed, many of which seemed to reflect the particular circumstances of the individual organization. At the same time, most appeared to be operating effectively. Most likely, the factors that determine organizational efficiency and effectiveness are determined more by personnel and local circumstances rather than the particular type of organizational structure.

LENDER OPERATING COST

RMC attempted to investigate the area of lender GSLP costs. This area was of interest because lenders often cite the high costs of administering this program and the resulting low (or negative) profit. To what extent this is correct and justifiable is a meaningful area of analysis. Many claims or beliefs concerning GSLP lender operating costs exist. These were usually based on isolated complaints or random comments. One reason the subject was addressed in this survey was to at least provide a systematic examination of certain lender questions from a representative sample of GSLP lenders.

It was recognized during the design phase that the cost of the lender's operation was a very difficult area for which to obtain data. Two reasons contribute to this: (1) lenders are reluctant to provide such data for competitive or confidential reasons, and (2) a large number of lenders do not maintain a record system that would provide these data. Interviews with lenders during the first phase of the contract and during the pretest of the questionnaire failed to resolve this difficulty. However, this area was pursued in the survey where questions could be formulated with a reasonable chance of expecting answers. In addition, lender site visits also investigated this cost area wherever possible. This section presents cost information obtained from lenders, even though the limited data from this survey do not allow any extensive analysis or consideration of this topic.

Given that the structure and detail of the cost accounting systems of the wide variety of types and sizes of lenders involved in this program precluded directly asking for any costs, RMC established several major cost categories covering GSLP administrative activities and asked the lender about the relative importance of these categories. Table 15 presents the results of the survey question asking lenders to compare their administrative costs of GSLP with their experience with alternative loans to which they might commit funds (such as consumer installment loans or other short-term uses). The basis identified was cost per loan and lenders were asked to what degree

GSLF costs during a recent study by Technology Management, Incorporated (TMI), for OPBE in which it sought data concerning student loans, special allowance rates, and servicing costs. The study involved interviews with 13 lenders and 3 servicing firms concerning operating costs. TMI encountered great difficulty in making cost comparisons among lenders because of the lack of or different bases for documenting the administration costs. Even though that study concentrated completely on obtaining cost data that could be made comparable, monthly operating costs during the in-school period could only be obtained from three lenders and the loan acquisition cost data obtained for only seven. TMI judged that student loans had been marginally profitable for commercial banks since 1970, and clearly unprofitable for institutions having higher than average servicing costs. Other than data in the published report (dated August 21, 1974), cost data obtained by that study are not available to RMC for comparison or integration with the current study.

Table 15

COMPARISON OF LENDERS ADMINISTRATION COSTS OF GSLP LOANS WITH ALTERNATIVE LOANS (percent)

	Cost	Per Golle Loan	n Compared	Cost Per GMLP Loan Compared to Alternative Loan	ve Loan
Cost Category for Lender Administration of GSLP	Very Much Lower	Somewhat Lower	About the Same	Somewhat Higher	Very Much Higher
Placing (acquiring the loan)	4	13	58	40	14
· Establishing repayment terms	2	3	17	31	48
Normal processing of loans during repayment	0	2	52	28	18
Maintenance of special records (meeting reporting requirements, interest billing, etc.)	1	1	. &	ž.	26
Searching for defaulters	1	9	25	. 25	43

Lender response was weighted by Lender nonresponse was about 12 percent for this question. size; i.e., number of GSLP borrowers in repayment. each of the cost categories specified was higher or lower than the alternative loans. Although a small percentage of the GSLP lenders rated the first category (cost of acquiring the loan) in the two lower ranks, the overall thrust was somewhat higher. For the second cost category (establishing repayment terms), the thrust of responses was clearly toward much higher costs for GSLP. The normal processing of loans during repayment category had the bulk of responses "about the same," with a skewed distribution toward higher costs. Maintenance of special records was again clearly ranked much higher and searching for defaulters had lenders representing almost three-quarters of the program, giving their ratings in one or the other of the two higher ranks. Lender response on the question covering these data accounted for about 88 percent of the borrowers in repayment under GSLP. For some lenders, of course, this question was not applicable since they had no similar alternative investment; e.g., vocational schools operating as direct lenders, life insurance companies, and direct state lending programs. The lender results indicating higher than average GSLP costs are not surprising, however. They are consistent with other lender responses and with the results of other studies. However, these results do provide distribution of lender claims by cost category from a large and representative sample.

Table 16 summarizes lender estimates of the percentages of total administrative GSLP costs attributable to each of the several cost categories identified. It presents the mean value reported by lenders for each of the cost categories. The mean values reported by lenders are presented two ways: (1) weighted equally by lenders, and (2) weighted by borrowers in repayment. Weighted by borrowers in repayment tends to reflect total impact on the program as a whole and, as a result, larger banks are given greater weight. This tabulation was based on responses from about 57 percent of the lenders (1) many lenders were not able to (or did not) answer this question at all, and (2) partial answers not totaling 100 percent of administration costs could not be averaged in with other complete answers. The cost category with the largest percentage of cost is "maintenance of special records." Presumably this was interpreted by lenders to include the heavy federal paper work requirement usually described by lenders as "excessive red tape and paper work." The lowest category is "establishing claims on defaulters,". which, of course, has no comparable category under regular lender loan programs since there is no guaranteeing agency for them. On the other side of the coin there are no GSLP costs due to default of principal (except in.

Table 16
LENDER GSLP ADMINISTRATION COSTS BY CATEGORY.

Cost Category for Lender	Percent Total	ed Mean ^a tage of L GSLP ation Costs
Administration of GSLP	Weighted Equally by Lenders	Weighted by Borrowers in Repayment
Placing (agquiring the loan)	20.0	15.2
Establishing repayment terms	17.2	16.8
Normal processing of loans during repayment	18.7	18.2
Maintenance of special records (meeting reporting requirements, interest billing, etc.)	26.2	21.6
Searching for defaulters	10.6	18.1
Establishing claims on defaults	7.3	10.0
	100.0	* 100.0

a. Mean values for lenders reporting usable data, which averaged about 57 percent of lenders responding.



state agencies guaranteeing less than 100 percent of the loan value).

As stated previously, RMC also attempted to obtain cost information during its site visit interviews to approximately 40 lenders. Little success was obtained in that endeavor. The lenders regularly referred to poor record-keeping systems within their organizations that did not provide them with management cost data of this type. In a couple of cases, lenders had conducted a special cost study, but were not willing to pass on the data since it was considered proprietary. In some instances, gross estimates were available, such as it cost 1.5 percent of the outstanding value to administer the GSLP portfolio. These estimates ranged between 1 and 2 percent of the outstanding value, but the small number of such data points precluded pursuing this area further. All in all, there is little further analysis that RMC can do with the available cost data, although there is no question that this is a useful area for further research.

Since the most important variable that might be expected to explain operating costs is lender size, RMC investigated its effect. Table 17 presents the results of cross-tabulating lender relative cost estimates against five categories of lender size in the GSLP program. / There appear to be no effects from lender size for two types of cost (establishing repayment terms and normal payment processing). Two types of cost (planning the loan and maintaining special records) show distinct trends for smaller lenders to spend greater shares of their GSLP costs in these areas. ceivably, economies of scale have an effect here since the small lenders (in GSLP) must invest considerable staff time to understand and satisfy GSLP regulations/requirements, even though only a small number of loans are granted. The remaining two cost categories (searching for defaulters and establishing default claims) show, a very strong trend toward larger lenders spending larger shares of their GSLP costs in these/areas. It must be that economies of scale do not operate when it comes to the default and due diligence area. Furthermore, it may be that small lenders spend proportionately less on defaulters because they have lower default rates (which they apparently do) and therefore can keep better track of them. A better examination of lender costs by size could be done if absolute dollar costs were known, but such data are not available.

ERIC

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DISTRIBUTION OF LENDER GSLP COSTS BY COST CATEGORY AND LENDER SIZE Table 17

	11	//			r.,				
		ende	ender Cost		Reported	d Mean Percen Administ	Reported Mean Percentage of Total GSLP Lender Administration Costs ^{a,b}	GSLP Lender a,b	
		(au)	atlegory	Lender Size ^C 0-50	Lender Size 50-100	Lender Size 100-300	Lender Size 300-500	Lender Size Over 500	Total
<u>-</u>	Placin	Inglice	gquiring the loan)	23	17	18	16	12	15
القر	tall		stablishing repayment terms		18	16	20	. 16	17
Ž	Normali		processing of loans grepayment	17	20	18	16	18	18
M.	ainmena records	nanc. Is	Maintenance of special	31	29	24	22	18	25
∖જ઼ ∤	Search	h ing	for defaulters	7	10	14	10	22	18
E	Establish defaults	3	ng-claims on	9	7	6,	10	11	10

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a Lender responses weighted by borrower in repayment.

lenders reporting usable data for both variables, which represented about 33 percent of

c. | GSLP borrowers in repayment.

#ISTRIBUTION OF DEFAULT AMONG LENDERS

This survey originally intended to investigate how borrower default affects lenders and the ways in which lender default rates are affected by lender operations and other characteristics. RMC was only able to carry out limited analysis in this area because of the inability of many lenders to provide comparable data on defaults. Considerable nonresponse was obtained on the survey items about the amount of default (even among the lenders who completed other parts of the questionnaire).

The first question that must be faced is what type of default rate should be defined. Clearly, it needs a numerator that is some measure of the amount of default--either for a given year or cumulative for the program as a whole. In addition, a denominator is needed that provides some measure of total amount of loans--either total GSLP loans outstanding at a given point in time or the total amount of loans granted by that lender during its history in the program. For a more precise measure, the denominator should only include those loans that have matured to the point of being liable for repayment, since loans for students still in school or deferred have not yet had an opportunity to default. Unfortunately, for most of the above ingredients, data are hard to obtain at the level of individual lenders. I

In the questionnaire, RMC asked the lenders to specify the total dollars for GSLP loans on which claims were filed for repayment because of borrower

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Probably the main reason most lenders did not provide quantitative estimates of default is the inability or inconvenience to obtain such estimates from their regular record-keeping systems. Some lenders commented on the questionnaire that they did not maintain records on default that way. Moreover, during our lender site-visit interviews, similar answers were often received. Apparently many lenders do not keep separate records once the loan is repaid by the guaranteeing agency. To many lenders, it has the same effect whether it is repaid by the borrower or by a guarantee agency. In other cases, records are kept on default claims paid, but they are not able to aggregate these for any given time period. Although it is possible that some lenders may have been ashamed of high default rates on their loans, and thus obscured. this fact by not calculating or providing default measures, there is no way RMC can prove their motivations. During some site visits, it was obvious that the record-keeping system in use did not focus on this measurement, but focussed management attention on potential problems such as delinquent loans and late payments.

default during 1973. The value was of little analytical benefit unless it could be converted into a ratio, which meant that the lender also had to provide an answer to a separate question concerning the total amount of GSLP loans outstanding and the total amount of loans not yet due for repayment. In a large number of cases, one or another of these three variables were not provided. As a result, comparable default rates could be calculated for only a small subset of responding lenders, and this was considered too small a group with which to do meaningful analysis. RMC was able to complete some analysis of the distribution of default among types of lenders and schools based upon the lender-provided data about the RMC sample of borrowers.

However, one screening question was included and answered by a very large percentage of the respondents. This question asked lenders if they had any defaults on GSLP loans during the calendar year 1973. A large percentage answered no to this question, thus indicating by definition a zero default rate for the period. RMC has tabulated and analyzed these data in order to provide insights into one aspect of the default process. These data allow the division of lenders into two groups, one with zero default rates and the other with greater than zero rates. Ninety-nine percent of the respondent lenders answered this question.

Almost half of the lenders claimed they filed no GSLP default claims during 1973. This result appeared somewhat surprising in light of default rates that were high (and growing) for the program as a whole. Although this question just refers to the calendar year 1973, by then most lenders had significant numbers of borrowers who had matured into the repayment phase and had ample opportunity to default. For this reason, further investigation was conducted into this area by RMC. Table 18 presents a distribution of lenders based upon the incidence of default during 1973 (weighting lenders equally). As the bottom total line shows, 49 percent of the lenders responding to the survey (only 2.7 percent of lenders did not answer this question) said they filed no default claim during 1973. Table 19 shows how these lenders were distributed by lender size. It is seen



Table 18
DISTRIBUTION OF LENDERS BY INCIDENCE OF DEFAULT DURING 1973 AND LENDER SIZE^a

Lender Size Categories (borrowers in	Percent of L Any GSLP Defau	enders Claiming ults Duying 1973	* Percent of Total
repayment)	Defaults	No Defaults	Lenders Represented
0-50	28	72	46
50-100	56	44.	25
100-300	77	23	20
300-500	• 94	6	4
500 and over		3	5
Total	. 51	49	100

a. All but/2.7 percent of lenders answered this question.

Table 19/ DISTRIBUTION OF BORROWER DEFAULT CLAIMED BY LENDERS IN 1973 BY LENDER SIZE

Lepder Size	Percent of GSLP Bo by Lenders Claiming	rrowers Represented Any Default in 1973	Porgent of Total
Categories	Default	No Default	Percent of Total* Borrowers in Repayment
0- 199	44	5 6	15
100- 199	78	. 22	9
200- 299	77	23	6
300-499	94	, <u> </u>	8
500- 999	94	6	9
1,000-1,999	. 98	2	10
2,000-2,999	100	0	4
3,000-3,999	100	0	.2
4,000-4,999	100	. 0	4
5,000 and over	100	0	33
Total	87	13	100



that there is a very strong relationship toward small lenders having most of the no default situations. In fact, the extent of this relationship is very striking in its intensity and distribution, and is particularly signicant since the GSLP program is characterized by a large number of fairly small lenders and a small number of very large lenders. This distribution is illustrated by the far righthand column in Table 18, where it is seen that almost half of the total lenders represented have less than 50 borrowers in repayment and 5 percent of the lenders have over 500 borrowers in repayment.

An alternative way of analyzing the impact of this variable is by examining the distribution of borrowers represented by the lender in the sample; i.e., each lender is weighted by its number of borrowers in repayment. Table 19 presents a tabulation calculated in this way and distributed by lender size. As the lower total line indicates, 13 percent of the borrowers in repayment are represented by lenders having no default claims during 1973. (thus, in this case, 49 percent of the lenders having no default represent 13 percent of the borrowers in the program). Distribution by size of lender is also evident from this table. Again it is seen that the very small lenders constitute the bulk of the situations in which no default occurred. In fact, none of the large lenders (which account for over 40 percent of the borrowers in repayment) were able to say they had no defaults during the year. The thrust toward smaller lenders having a significant number of zero default situations is clear and this would in turn lead to lower default rates, averaged over all lenders of a given size.

Distribution of these zero default situations by geographical location was also investigated. Table 20 presents a comparison of borrower default incidence during 1973 by ZIP Code national areas. For this table, the response is weighted by borrowers in repayment (as seen by the lowest line, lenders representing a total of 13 percent of borrowers throughout the nation had zero defaults for 1973). ZIP Code Area 5 (North Central) stands out as

^{1.} 500 is not that large a size since at least a dozen lenders in the sample had over 10,000 and three lenders had over 40,000 borrowers in repayment.

Table 20

COMPARISON OF LENDERS CLAIMING
DEFAULTS DURING 1873 BY ZIP CODE NATIONAL AREAS^{a,b}.

		-\	
ŽIP Code	Percent of Le Any GSLP Defa	enders Claiming oult During 1973	Percent of GSLP
, National Areas	Defaults	No Defaults	Borrowers Represented
, 0, ,	88	12.	11
	91 -	9	.8
, 2	√85. √	15	- 5
' 3. '	86,	14	6
4	82	18 "	. 7
. 5	74	. 26	12
6	85	· 15.	13
. 7	88 .	12	10
8	89	. 11	7
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	98	2	18
Total	87	13	100

a: Lender response on this question was 99 percent.

b. Lender response has been weighted by number of borrowers in repayment.

having by far the highest (twice the national average) incidence of zero defaults in 1973. ZIP Code Area 4 (Great Lakes) is also significantly higher in terms of accounting for more than its share of borrowers without default. At the other extreme, ZIP Code Area 9 (West Coast) shows 98 percent of its GSLP activity having some default in 1973. ZIP Code Area 1 (New York/Pennsylvania) was next closest, with 91 percent of its borrowers accounted for by lenders with default in 1973.

The variables of lender size and geographic location are interrelated and the size effect could be the stronger underlying relationship. The two areas having proportionally more zero default incidence (ZIP Code Areas 4 and 5) also have significantly more of their GSLP activity in smaller lenders. The area having almost no incidence of zero default (ZIP Code Area 1, New York/Pennsylvania) presents a special case since it does not have proportionately large amounts of large lenders, but it does have a very large share of GSLP activity, with at least some defaulters. Although the explanation may be related to the presence of active state guarantee agencies in New York and Pennsylvania, there is not enough information available for further analysis in ZIP Code Area 1. All in all, the incidence of default appears to be primarily explained by the effect of the level of lender GSLP activity; it is clearly not distributed equally among lenders.

RESULTS OF LENDER SURVEY OF BORROWER DATA

The purpose of this section is to present and discuss the results of the borrower survey. The unweighted data from the survey questions are provided in Appendix B. The first parts of this section discuss the response pattern for the borrower data; the latter parts analyze the loan defaults in the program. The information described in Chapter 2 on the results of the initial sequest to

^{1.} Expressed another way, ZIP Code Area 5 has 12 percent of the total GSLP borrowers in the program, but accounts for 24 percent of the borrowers for which lenders reported no GSLP claims during 1973. ZIP Code Area 9 accounts for 18 percent of the total GSLP borrowers, but only 3 percent of the borrowers covered by GSLP claims during 1973.

lenders on borrower loan status is also relevant to the questions of response and representativeness as well as to the survey data results that follow.

Response Pattern for Borrower Data

As a basis for interpreting the data analysis to be presented in the following sections, it is worthwhile to examine the response patterns for the data concerning borrowers. The level and distribution of survey response has a direct impact on how representative the resultant data are considered to be.

Table 21 summarizes several aspects of the gross response for the part of the lender's survey relating to the borrowers. The data are unweighted; i.e., they represent actual questionnaires sent out and received.

Table 21
RESPONSE PATTERN FOR BORROWER DATA
(unweighted)

		>			4	
30		Category	4		1	Number
Total original s	ample of borro	owers, ···				9,346
Eliminated becau repayment or no	se of initial record of loan	status check r)	(not vet	in .	-	1-,574
Subtotal covered	by lender sur	vey	*			6,772
Responses receiv	ed from lender	rs'	•	**		4,842
Response rate	as percent of	original sar	mple			58%
Response rate	as percent of	revised sam	ole .			72%

As Table 21 shows, a total of 4,842 borrowers were represented by replies to the lender questionnaire on sample borrowers—a response rate of 72 percent of those sent out, or 58 percent of the original sample. However, a significant number of these replies contained little or no data since the lenders claimed that the needed records were not available. The question of nonresponse bias and representativeness was examined in Chapter 2. Only slight basis for nonresponse bias was found, and adjustments for such bias were made, where appropriate.

Profile of Borrowers

Lenders returned questionnaires on approximately 60 percent of the borrowers in the original sample. In many cases, however, lenders did not supply substantive information. For example, many lenders make a practice of either destroying or "cold-storaging" records relating to loans that have been paid, usually retaining only the hame and address of the borrower and the loan status. In particular, many defaulted loans are treated in this manner.

It was found that 12.6 percent of the borrowers were in default, 5 percent were in aprears and thus likely to default, 32 percent had paid their loans in full and 41 percent were repaying. About 4 percent were still in school, and 4 percent of the borrowers could not be accounted for by the lenders.

Lenders claim borrowers have an average of 1.4 loans outstanding, with an average balance of \$1,482. A large percentage of the borrowers have one loan outstanding (58 percent) and another 16 percent have two notes.

We find that the average total debt is positively related to the number of loans, rising from \$1,090 for those with one loan to about \$3,800 for those with seven loans.

Student loans are seldom transferred between lenders. Only 2.7 percent of the loans were transferred; of those, most were serviced by the recipient institution.

Thirty-seven percent of the borrowers were customers before taking out their first loams, and 39 percent of the borrowers' families were customers too. Generally, the relationship was through a personal savings or checking account; although about 11 percent of the families had business accounts where the students applied for loams. Only about 20 percent of the borrowers currently maintained accounts with the lenders, indicating that the lenders do not build up any sort of loyalty through the GSL relationship.

We also found lenders tend to grant slightly more loans to previous customers, originating an average of 1.6 loans to previous customers and 1.4 to others:

Lenders tend to deal directly with the borrower, principally through letters or telegrams. They will next resort to telephone calls to the borrower or communications with the borrower's family. The next step is to contact the schools. If that fails, they notify the Office of Education or a state guarantee agency.

Lenders were able to contact the borrower and establish repayment terms in about 83 percent of the cases. The hypothetical "average" note was for four years at \$37 per month.

Almost 25 percent of the borrowers made no repayment whatsoever; conversely, about 25 percent of the borrowers made lump-sum payments. The average borrower had made 16 payments; i.e., was about a third of the way along in the repayment schedule.

Very few loans are ever modified after entering repayment (4.6 percent) except for deferrals. This confirms the information in the borrower survey. Deferrals take place in about 7.4 percent of the cases. Lenders cited; in declining order of importance, the following reasons for deferrals: (1) further schooling, (2) military service, and (3) financial difficulties. When financial difficulties were cited, the lenders either were granting deferrals not allowed under the program or were more likely interpreting deferral to include forbearance, which can be granted with OE approval.

Lenders claimed that over one-third of the borrowers had been late in meeting their loan payments. They claimed an average of five late payments for this group. Coupled with the average of 16 payments per borrower, it appears that some borrowers may be late on an average of one payment in three.

Lenders claimed that 18 percent of their borrowers had defaulted on repayment and that they had attempted to contact 66 percent of those who had defaulted. This statistic is worthy of further study since, by law, lenders are expected to exercise due diligence regarding loan defaults. This term has been construed to indicate an effort by the lender to get the borrower to repay, seemingly contradicting our survey results. Possibly, lenders interpreted the question to mean contact with the borrower after a default claim has been filed (and due diligence exercised). Lenders indicated that they used the same modes of access to the borrower at this time as when they had originally tried to establish repayment terms.

Defaulter Analysis

A primary purpose of this study was to develop an accurate characterization of defaulters, an assessment of the strength of the default phenomenon in the GSL program, and models to aid decision-makers in predicting defaults and developing appropriate policies.

This section of the analysis is based on the survey instrument completed by lenders regarding individual borrowers. This instrument contains information characterizing the borrower population in terms of its client relationship to the lenders. It provides aggregate information on the distribution of loan status, the type of business relationship between the lender and borrower both before and after the loan was made, and financial information concerning repayment terms, lump-sum payments, number of late payments, etc. The survey contains about 660 responses on defaulters.

In the following discussion, all default rates represent historical estimates of the proportion of borrowers who eventually end in default compared with the total number of recent borrowers who have entered repayment. They do not measure the impact of recent policy and administrative changes in the program.

Survey Results -- Borrower Survey Completed by Lenders

rable 22 displays the relationship between the two principal measures of default used in this survey. The first measure is a detailed breakdown of various loan statuses (Q.1). The second measure is response to the question "Has this borrower defaulted on repayment?" (Q.52).

Table 22
RELATIONSHIP OF DEFAULT MEASURE (percent)

`	Borr weit status	Paid	ĺ	į.	۱rr	ears		De fault	_					1
Н	as Borrower Defaulted?	in Full	In Re- payment	Deferred	Claim Filed	No Claim Filed	*Bank;	Death - Disability	Default	Repaid Other Party	Still in School	Deferred	Unknown	Total
٠.	ies :	: , 4	a q . 3	12.5	37.4	66.3	79.0 1.7	56.1 1.	96.4 55.2	, 28.6 .8	2.9	0	18.9	16.4
	50	78 31.0	57.3	8-	2.6	33. ⁻ 1. 8	21.0	65.4	3.6	71.4	97.1	100	81.1	83.6
	Marginul *	31.6	49.4	•	1.3	1.1	-30.3		9.4	. 5		,.2	. 8	

Table 22 reveals, certain inconsistencies in the classifications. However, they are generally small and do not materially affect the default rate estimates. The first kind of inconsistency is unresolvable. For example, 2 percent of those classified in default by the second measure are classified "in repayment" by the first measure. The second type of inconsistency has a reasonable explanation and tends to indicate which indicator is more reliable. This category includes 2 percent of the defaulters by the second measure classified as paid-in-full by the first. In our site visits, we found that lenders often marked repaid loans as "paid-in-full"--without regard to the source of the payment. A third category of inconsistency covers classifications not entirely based in fact. For example, by the first measure, certain claims were in arrears, but claims had not yet been filed. For these loans, a substantial proportion were counted as defaulters by the second measure.

Under the assumption that most of the borrowers in arrears will in fact default, the best estimate of the historical borrower default rate is 16.4 percent ±1 percent. Under the assumption that ambiguities are resolved to lower the default rate estimate, the best estimate becomes 13.5 percent ±1 percent. In any case, the historical borrower default rate is bounded below by 12.5 percent and above by 17.5 percent. This, of course, reflects estimates based on data gathered in early 1974.

No adjustment will be made to the two measures of default in the following descriptive analysis other than the previously mentioned nonresponse adjustment, and the reader is advised to remember possible errors in each measure.

Defaulters cannot be differentiated from nondefaulters in terms of the financial character of their aggregate program participation. Tables 23 and 24 show that the mean indebtedness of defaulters is lower than for nondefaulters and also that the mean number of loans is lower. However, in a practical sense, a useful decision-making criterion cannot be established because the population standard deviations are very high relative to the difference in means, thus indicating a significant overlap in the populations.

The analysis of borrower data showed the inverse relationship between educational level completed and default rate. That result is consistent with a lower mean humber of loans. On the average, defaulters are in the higher education system for a shorter time, and consequently take out fewer loans and attain lower academic levels than nondefaulters. Tables 25 and 26 display correlative results, showing the mean

Table 23 AVERAGE DEBT BY LOAN STATUS

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Amount of Loans	
Borrower Status	Mean	Standard Deviation of Population	Weighted Cases
Paid in full In repayment Deferred after payment began Arrears claim filed Arrears no claim filed Lefault bankruptcy Default denth Default disability Repaid other party Still in school Deferred Cancelled Unknown Total	\$ 1,023 1,826, 2,025 1,260 1,465 1,525 1,928 1,422 1,400 1,842 1,694 803 1,928	\$ 676 1,174 1,247 609 995 1,651 1,107 917 922 1,153 1,194 344 1,294 \$ 1,080	872 1,820 24 58 162 13 23 421 14 45 7 2 30 3,492
Has borrower defaulted? Yes No Total	\$ 1,482 1,588 \$ 1,569	\$ 1,029 1,109 \$ 1,096	573 2,568 3,141

Total cases = 3,503. Missing cases = 362 or 10.3%.

Table 24 .

AVERAGE NUMBER OF LOANS BY LOAN STATUS

	•	Number of Loans	<u> </u>
Borrover Status	Mean	Standard Deviation of Population	Weighted Cases
Paid in full In repayment Deferred after payment began Arrears claim filed Arrears no claim filed Default bankruptcy Default death Lefault disability Repaid other party Still in school Deferred Cancelled Unknown Total	1.3 1.7 2.0 1.1 1.4 1.1 1.8 1.4 1.1 1.8 1.8 1.0 3.0	0.8 1.1 1.3 0.5 0.9 0.3 1.1 0.9 0.5 1.3 1.7 0.0 0.0	838 1,793 21 58 162 11 23 414 445 66 2 3
Has borrower defaulted? Yes No Total	1.5 1.6	• 0.9 1.0 1.0	557 2,476 3,033

Total cases = 3,401. Missing cases = 368 or 10.8%.

Table 25 AVERAGE MONTHLY PAYMENT BY LOAN STATUS

		Monthly Payment	
Borrower Status 🙊	Mean	Standard Deviation of Population	Weighted Cases
Paid in full In repair int Referred after payment began Arrents claim filed Arrents no claim filed Infalt bankruptev Perhalt death Infalt disability Resuld other party Still in school Deferred Cancelled Unknown	\$ 50,81 37,77 58,83 52,15 35,09 39,98 40,35 32,43 31,60 40,49 164,84 30,00 \$ 37,07	\$ 18,42 15,74 22,54 6,15 12,92 17,94 8,54 8,40 9,23 16,51 302,15 0,0 \$ 18,75	584 1,747 22 39 111 4 6 198 10 18 3 1 21
Has borrower defaulted?			 _
Yes No	\$ 33.95 37.74	\$ 10.92 22.51	363 2,289
Total	\$ 37.21	\$ 21.31	2,661

Total cases = 3,503. Missing cases = 843 or 24.1%.

Table 26

LENGTH OF PLANNED REPAYMENT PERIOD BY LOAN STATUS (months)

	(IIIOITCIIS)		
		Repayment Period	•
Borrower Status 🕺 🤏	Mean	Standard Deviation of Population	Weighted Cases
Prid in full In reparent ferered after payment began Atreats claim filed Arrears no claim filed ichalt bankraptey lefent death Primalt disability fored other pacty Still in school Ferered Cancerled Unknown Total	\$ 27.4 57.7 65.8 47.4 50.0 61.0 67.1 44.4 40.8 72,9 72.4 5.0 68.2	28.6 27.4 29.4 29.3 38.2 31.5 20.3 31.5 40.0 30.1 0.0 20.6 29.0	573 1,716 22 37 108 4 192 10 17 3 1 21 2,716
ilas bortower defaulted? • §			0
Yes No	46.9 50.7	28.5 29.10	347 2,251
Total	50.2	29.0	2,606

Tetal cases = 3,573. Missing cases = 897 or 25.6%.



repayment period and monthly payment amount for defaulters to be significantly less than for nondefaulters. These two tables excluded the approximately one-third of the defaulters for whom repayment terms could not be established.

The default rate is not related to the number of loans held by the borrower. In addition, the proportion of borrowers who make late payments is unrelated to their total number of loans. Tables 27 and 28 display the relevant results. The relationship between number of loans and mean indebtedness is shown in Table 29. It indicates that the lack of relationship between default rate and number of loans would carry over if indebtedness had been the discriminating variable.

Table 27

Table 28

CONTINCIACY HARL FOR MESTR OF LOANS
BY WHITHER BEHROWER HAS MODE LATE PAYMENTS

(DOCUMENT)

	- (perc	ent)	4			(per	cent)	<u> </u>
Nig Nor	Has Beriduer	ik builted?	Total		Number	Late Pay	ments?	
of to as	Ŷes		10(31		Loans	Yes	No	lotal
. 0	17.3 11.2	82.7 / 10.9	10.9		^ °	31.8 10.9	65.2 11.0	10.9
ļ	18.6 63.	81.4 50.6	57.8		1,	36.1 59.5	65.9 u 50.8'	57.8
2 .	13.2 13.3	86.8 17.7	•17:0	6 -	2	32.7 15.8	67.3 17.0	17.0
;	, 11.3 5.3	88.7 8.4	7,9		3' /	31.6 7.3	63.4 8.5	8.1
4	18.53 4.65	'81.5 4.1	4.2		4	35.7 4.3	64.3 4.2	1.4
3	13.4	81.6 1.4	1.4		5	35.0 1.4	05.0 1.4	1.4
0	4.9	95.1	.5		6 *	39.4	60.6	.5
7 .	υ 0	100.0	.1		7	80.0	20.0	δ1
8,	25.0	75.n /	.1		8	100.0	0.0	.0+"
intal	. 16.2	83.1	100.0		Total	35.1	64,2	, 100.0 ·

3,33% Cases

13,201 Cas

Table 29
AVERAGE DEBT BY NUMBER OF LOANS

,		Indebtedness	
Number of Loans	Mean :	Standard Deviation of Population	Weighted
0	\$ 642	\$ 931	303
1	1,097	622	2,031
2	1,877	763	611
3	2,627	1,008	285
4	3,599	1,177	152
5 or more	٥,011	1,300	67

The survey instrument contained several questions concerning the relationship of the lender to the borrowers and their families before the student loan was drawn. Table 30, which cross-tabulates borrower status by whether the borrower was a previous customer, shows that the previous account relationship does differentiate defaulters from nondefaulters. Excluding default by death or disability, the table indicates that 5.7 percent of the borrowers who were previous customers defaulted and that another 3.5 percent were significantly in arrears. For the other group, 12.7 percent defaulted and there were another 8 percent with claims in

Table 30 CONTINGENCY TABLE FOR FAMILY ACCOUNT RELATIONSHIP BY LOAN STATUS

Rome or Status Experted Ro- Lamily a Customer?		In Reem	1x ferred	(LIIII)		Man.) Tupts	Default Death ? In allility) De (apl t	Repaid Other Party	Still in School	Deferred	Can- celled	Unknown	101.1
Yes	5+3 38,11 73,31	1	5 0.31 58.31	7 0.5% 24.4%	11 2.71 55.11	0 5 /	#Im 0.65 57.6\$	56 5.71 32.11	8 0.5 64.9	18 12% 64.6%	3, 0.2; 53.1;	100.0;	1 0.01 50.01	1,51%
\o ·	211		4 0.5 41.7	23 5.0 75.0	4.1, 11.7%	7 2 1) . 3% 7 5 . 3 s	0.55	113 15.6% 67.4%	0.63 35.15	10 1731 35.41	3 9.3 5 46.9°	0 0.05 0. 0 1	1 0,1 1 50.0\$	758 35. ³
Total		1,129 49.61	0.43	30 1.3%	3.3 1	7	17 .* 0.7%	1-4 7 p:	13° 0.64	2 / 1 · 2 }	0.28	0.61	0.15	2,226 160.

process. Table 31 provides that same type of tabulation using the second default measure (Q.52). From it, 10.2 percent of the previous customers defaulted compared with 19.8 percent of the complementary group.

In many cases, borrowers have no account relationship with any lender and are known to the lender only through other family accounts. Table 32 displays the cross-tabulation of "previous account relationship with family" by the first default measure. Table 33 provides similar information for the second measure.

Table 31
CONTINGEYCY TABLE FOR BORROWER ACCOUNT RELATIONSHIP BY LOAN STATUS

Borrower a	Has Borrover	Defaulted?	
Customar?	Yes	. No	Total
Yes	126 10.2% 32.4%	1,114 89.8% 51.0%	1,240 48.2%
No	. 263 19.8% 67.6%	1,068 80.2% 49.0%	1,331 -5108%
Total	389 15.1%	2,182 84.9%	2,571 100.0%

Table 32
CONTINGENCY TABLE FOR BORROWER ACCOUNT RELATIONSHIP BY LOAN STATUS

Burrace Status				Arre	vars	`	Default		Daniel I	C	'1	e	
Borrower a Custoner?	in Full	In Re- payment	Deferred	'Claim Filed	No Claim Filed	Bank.r ruptci	Death - Disability	Default	Repaid Other Party	Still in School	Deferred	Unknown	Total
Yes	49 f 35.0 1 53.6 1	722 51.5 \$ 51.6 \$	9 0.7% 51.3%	8 0.63 17.13	41 \2.9\$ \$4.85	9 0.6 \$ 76.8 \$	13 1.01 61.01	73 5.21 28.71	4 0.33 27.04	29 2.11 ° 66.85	0.21 45.91	0.15 50.05	1,462
No s	425 29:41 46:41	676 46.8 \$ 48.4 \$	9 0.6 \$ +48.7 1	38 2.6% 82.9%	5.4% 5.2%	3 0.2% 23.2%	9 0.6 \$ 39.0 \$	180 12.5\$ 71.3%	10 0.7\$ 73.0\$	14 1.04 33.23	3 0.2% 54.1%	0.13 50.03	1,445 50.8%
ζotal σ	916 52.11	1,399 49.1	.18	16 1.67	119 4.2'e	11 0.45	0.81	253 8.94	D14 0.5%	43 1.5%	5 0.21	0.0%	2,847



Table 33
CONTINGENCY TABLE FOR FAMILY ACCOUNT RELATIONSHIP BY LOAN STATUS

/ Family a	Has Borrower	Defaulted?	. Total.
/ Customer?	Yes	No	, Total
Yes	108 8.0% 40.7%	1,240 92.0% 69.9%	1,348 66.1%
No	158 22.8% 59.3%	535 77.2% 30.1%	692 33.9%
Total	266 13:0%	1,775 87.0%	2,041 100.0%

Borrowers are, a priori, almost three times as likely to default if there is no previous family relationship with the lender. By the second measure, only 8 percent of the loans made in the presence of previous family relationships end in default, while 22.8 percent of other loans do. Similar results apply to the first measure.

The next variable to be considered is whether or not the borrowers completed their intended academic programs.

Table 34, which cross-tabulates the second default measure by the completion-of-program variable, shows that 37 percent of those not completing their programs default, while only 11 percent completing their programs do. Looked at differently, about 55 percent of all defaults come from those who do not complete their/programs.

A common complaint is that lenders are unable to locate borrowers and are thus unable to convert the borrowers to repayment. Therefore, they must file claims to recover their funds. Table 35 demonstrates that 33 percent of the defaulters never had repayment terms established. It should be noted that the 6.8 percent of the population in this table that does not default and does not establish repayment terms is not in error. It includes those people who pay off their loans in a lump-sum before repayment; is



Table 34
CONTINGENCY TABLE FOR PROGRAM COMPLETION BY LOAN STATUS

Borrower	Has Borrower	Defaulted?	Total
Finish Program?	Yes	No:	· Total
Yes	199 10.9% * 44.8%	1,624 89.1% 79.6%	1,823 73.4%
No	245 37.0% 552%	417 63.0% 20.4%	661 26 £6%
Total	• 444 17.9%	2,041 82.1%	° 2,484 100.0%

Table 35

CONTINGENCY TABLE FOR REPAYMENT TERMS ESTABLISHED BY LOAN STATUS

·	01 2 2	17 9	k
Repayment	Has Borrower	Defaulted?	Total
Terms Established?	Yes	No	
Yes	432 13.5%	2,76 1 86.5%	3,193 87/2%
• •	66.3%	91.7%	<u> </u>
No	220 46.7% 33.7%	\$251 \$3.3% 8.3%	471 12.8%
Total	652	3,011	3 <u>,</u> 663
Iotai	17.8%	82.2%	100.0%

required to begin. In terms of those with established repayment terms, the default rate is only 13.5 percent.

Many lenders believe that if a borrower can be converted to repayment and start paying, the probability of default is substantially lessened.

Table 36 depicts the relationship between default rate and whether or not any payments were made by the borrower. It shows that the default rate for

those who make payments is 11 percent compared with the overall estimate of 17 percent. In that table, a surprising proportion (13 percent) of the population did not make any payment and did not default. This can be attributed either to errors or to the fact that other sources may have paid off the loans (such as the borrower's family). Table 37 shows that almost no defaulters make any lump-sum payments.

Table 36
CONTINGENCY TABLE FOR ANY OF LOAN REPAID BY LOAN STATUS

. Any of	Has Borrower	Total	
Loan Repaid?	Yes	No	Total
Yes	278 11.0% 44.5%	2,254 89.0% 84.0%	2,532 76.5%
No	347 44.7% 55.5%	430 55.3% 16.0%	777 23.5%
Total	625 18.9%	2,684 81.1%	3,309 100.0%

, Table 37

CONTINGENCY TABLE FOR ANY LUMP-SUM PAYMENTS BY LOAN STATUS

Any	Has Borrower	Has Borrower Defaulted?				
Lump-Sum Payments?	Yes	No	Total			
Yes	31	662	693			
	4.5%	95.5% 25.8%	22.7%			
No	452 19.2%	1,904 80.8%	-2,356 77.3%			
,	93.6%	74.2%	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			
Total	483 15.8%	2,566 84.2%	3,050 100.0%			



Information from the AIES school file was related to the survey responses. These variables refer to the borrower's intended school and not the actual school attended (although there is a close connection). The program type and school control variables were aggregated to be consistent with previous studies.

Specialized and vocational schools have an estimated default rate of 28.5 percent, more than 100 percent higher than universities and colleges (12.6 percent). Junior colleges and institutes are intermediate, with an estimated default rate of 12.6 percent. In terms of school control, proprietary schools have a rate of 28.8 percent, much higher than public schools, with 10.7 percent, or private nonprofit schools, with 12.2 percent.

Vocational schools do not always act as direct lenders. Using the lender type variable, the default rate for vocational school direct lenders was estimated to be 46.9 percent. Other high default rates were estimated for savings and loan associations (26 percent) and for miscellaneous institutions (23 percent). Miscellaneous institutions is an aggregation of insurance companies, mutual savings banks, nonvocational academic institution lenders, direct state lenders, and miscellaneous lenders. National banks had rates of 12.1 percent. The best performance was by credit unions, with estimated rates of 7.1 percent (see Table 38).

Table 38

DETAULT PATES FOR SLLECTED OF VARIABLES
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Selected Variables	Default Rate *
Lender Type National Banks State Banks FDIC Savings and Loans Credit Unions Miscellaneous Academic Institution-vocational	12.1 14.4 26.0 7-1 23.0 46.9
Program Type Specialized and vocational Junior Colleges and Institutes Universities and Colleges	28.5 17.5 12.6
School Control Proprietary Private-nonprofit Public Unknown	28.8 12.2 10.7 . 39.0



LENDER SITE VISITS

SITE VISIT PLAN

This task of the original proposal called for personal interviews with lender officials at approximately 40 lending institutions around the country. Selection of these lenders for visits was based on several criteria. Although the sample was intended to be constructed of representative institutions, the sample size was much too small to be statistically representative of the universe of lenders. Rather it was intended to include some representation from each of the varieties of significant lending types and situations encountered in the program.

RMC originally requested nominations of interesting lenders from the Division of Insured Loans of OE based on certain desired characteristics; i.e., very high default rates, very low default rates, large banks, small banks, lenders with strong commitment to the program, lenders recently discontinuing participation, etc. After obtaining suggestions in these areas from various regional offices, the Division of Insured Loans provided RMC with a list of suggestions. This list was narrowed to those in the original RMC sample of 784 lenders and merged with other data RMC had collected on sample lenders. This list then served as a basis for RMC's choice of lenders to be visited and interviewed. For efficient use of limited travel funds, the criterion of geographical concentration was also used. This occurred through the selection of additional interesting lenders once a given city had been chosen because particular lenders on the OE list were located in the same city. For example, once the Bank of America and United Califormia Bank were both identified as very desirable for interviews, RMC then selected several other lenders in Los Angeles to round out several days of visits in the area. In that particular case, another very large lender,

two vocational schools acting as direct lenders, two savings and loan associations, and a small life insurance company were included. Similarly, when we visited three of the largest vocational school direct lenders in Chicago, we also visited two large commercial banks active in the program. In this way, RMC obtained a final sample of lenders that represented various types of problems and activities in the GSLP. In addition, use was made of interesting lender situations discovered as a result of the questionnaires returned to RMC from the lenders.

SITE VISIT PROCEDURES

Prior to our visit, appointments were made by telephone with the director of the Guaranteed Student Loan Program at each selected lender. With rare exception, we found the lender officials to be receptive to our visit and helpful in our search of information. The opportunity to explain our purposes and establish a face-to-face rapport proved to be important. For example, in many cases, the staff members of the lending organization were originally reluctant to provide full answers and were sometimes defensive in their answers. However, the same persons were almost always much more cooperative and helpful later in the interview. In many cases, the interviewees were unable to provide specific answers because the information was not known or available to them. This was particularly true in the areas of costs of operations and specific default data. Records of the lenders were often not kept in a way that allowed ready answers to our questions.

These site visits provided useful background information on each of the types of lenders mentioned earlier. While this sample group of lenders was constructed to represent a range of relevant criteria, it was not intended to be exactly representative of the lender universe. Even though comparison among and across the lenders was conducted, most of the analysis treated them as case studies. The anecdotal information obtained in this way helped in interpreting the results of the broader survey.

The agenda for the interviews at the various sites obviously varied from site to site, depending on particular features of the lender. In general, however, the following subjects were pursued to the extent relevant at a given site:

- reasons for defaults;
- effects of defaults on participation;
- detailed exploration of both positive (encouraging participation) and negative (discouraging participation) features of the GSLP;

- greater detail about the costs of handling GSLP loans;
- how the lender provided access to potential borrowers, especially for those who attended proprietary schools;
- how the lender was organized to handle GSLP loans;
- major changes in GSLP procedures that the lender wanted to see implemented;
- alternative student løan programs and institutions that the lender preferred to the current scheme;
- factors that encouraged increased participation (in terms of funds committed) in the GSLP; and
- exploration of other organizational ties (e.g., parent cooperation, branch, or educational institution) and how these links affected lender policies relative to GSLP.

The actual visits to lenders were carried out during the fall and winter, of 1974. Lenders were visited at the rate of about two per day and interviews lasted from one to two hours each, depending on the interest of the interviewees, the complexity of the operation, and its problems. Often two or more individuals from various operational levels were interviewed for a particular lender. This procedure surfaced comments and problems from all points of view and proved very helpful toward RMC's understanding of the actual operational aspects of GSLP.

At the completion of the site visit phase of the project, 37 lenders in 38 locations had been interviewed. The distribution by lender type and mean number of borrowers for each type is shown in Table 39. Three of the 13 lender categories were not represented. However, the proportion of borrowers receiving loans from these three types of lenders make up only 1 percent of all borrowers in the GSLP. It was felt by RMC that the omission of these kinds of lenders from the site visit phase of our study would not significantly affect the results. In addition, one visit was made to a special type--the center that serviced GSLP loans for other lenders.

DATA ANALYSIS

Since the format of the site visit interviews was generally free-flowing and nonstructured, the analysis undertaken was primarily subjective. Even though the group of lenders interviewed was not (nor was intended to be) representative, RMC examined the data across lenders in a comparative fashion with the goal of maximizing insights and information transfer. The information is provided here for the same purpose.





Table 39
GSLP_SITE VISIT SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

	 	Number	Moon No. of
	Lender Type	Visited	Mean No. of a GSLP Borrowers
1.	National Baňk	10	10,224
2.	State BankFDIC	10	6,921
. 3.	State_BankNon-FDIC	0 ,	
4.	Federal Savings and Loan	2	3,337
5.	State Savings and Loan,	2	1,289
6.	Federal Credit Union	1	111
7:	State Credit Union	0 ,	·-
8	Mutual Savings Bank	2	1,722
9.	Insurance Company	. 1	265
10.	Academic Institution Higher Education	, O	
11.	Direct State Loan	1	. 44,009
12.	Other	2	11,413
,13.	Academic Institution Vocational Education	5	14,110
14.	GSLP Servicing Center	1	110,000
	Total	37	

a. Borrowers include only those loans that have reached repayment status.

A comprehensive site visit report was prepared on each lender for internal RMC use, and from these reports two analyses were developed. The first of these concerned the identification of characteristics of each lender that appeared (in the eyes of the lender and the RMC analyst) to have had a positive effect on GSLP activities. In addition, a list of potential or existing problems was also developed. Appendix E presents a summary sheet for each lender listing those positive factors, problem areas, and major characteristics. Lenders are identified only by descriptors and not by name. This was done to preserve the confidentiality of the interviews. From these lists of attributes and problem areas, two matrices were produced. Each matrix lists lenders in order of decreasing default rate (defaulting borrower/borrowers reaching payment status) as the horizontal dimension, with attributes and problems as the vertical dimension.

Table 40 shows the potential or existing problem matrix. Each x in the matrix designates the mention of a particular problem by a lender. The columns on the righthand side of the table show subtotals of mentions for the group of lenders on the lefthand side of the table (those having the highest default rates), those on the righthand side of the table (those having the lowest default rates), and the total number of mentions for all lenders.

A look at this table will show no striking differences in the two groups of lenders. The total number of mentions for the high default groups was 94 compared with 72 for the low default rate groups. This relationship points in the right direction, but could not be labeled significant in RMC's opinion. A proper phrase describing the results of this analysis might be: no significant relationship could be shown between the mention of all existing and potential problem areas and the default rate (defaulting borrowers/borrowers reaching repayment status) of various lenders.

Taking a closer look at the subtotal columns, three problem types seem to show a trend toward differences in frequency of mention between high and low default lenders. These are:

Table 40

POTENTIAL, OR EXISTING PROBLEM MATRIX

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- slow default claims payments,
- decentralized operations, and
- no customer relationship requirement.

These differences-10 and 4, 3 and 0, and 6 and 1-are not statistically significant, but do offer enough separation to be interpreted as possible trends with this small sample size.

The statements that can be made from this analysis are admittedly weak. However, it does appear that lenders with high default rates tend to mention the fact that claims payments are not made quickly enough more often than lenders with low default rates. Lenders with high default rates have a slightly higher tendency to be operationally decentralized than lenders with low default rates; and lenders with low default rates tend to require the borrower to have a customer relationship with them more frequently than lenders with high default rates.

Table 41 shows the matrix identifying the good points for each lender visited. As before, each x in the matrix designates a good point or attribute mentioned by the lenders or observed by RMC staff.

Inspection of this table shows no striking differences between lenders with low and high default rates. In fact, the high default group mentioned more total attributes (57 vs. 50) than the low default group, but this is not a statistically significant difference.

Perhaps the most useful result of this analysis is to emphasize the importance of the relative total frequency of the mention column on the right-hand side of Tables 40 and 41. The size of the numbers can be crudely related to the priority with which the specific problems should be corrected. The items near the top of the matrix are those that appear to be occurring most frequently. On the other hand, the matrix of good points does identify those attributes that appear to be having a positive effect on the largest number of lenders.

While this analysis is useful to identify those areas that may be causing the lenders problems and, therefore, will require the concentrated efforts of GSLP officials to solve, Table 42 presents the recommendations

GOOD POINTS DISTRIBUTED BY LENDER

			•	•
	Lenders Ranked by Decreasing, Default Rate	Total	Total	Torai
Good Points		Ment ions for 'High	Mentatons for low	Mentions By All
agit .	1 2 3 4 5 6 7, 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 33 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	37 Defaulters	Defaulters	Lenders
Customer Relation-	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X	, 9 x	ø,	12
Commiterized Sector	x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x	9	4	-
Experience in (SLP	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	2	4	6
No Vocational Students	×××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××	S	4	6
Loan Sent Through School	×××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××	4	5	6.
▲ Centralized Admin.	X X X X X X		2	8
Credit Checks	X X X	ν,	7	9
No Freshmen	XXXXX	'n	3	. 9
Good Bata	×××	ín	2	2
Borrower Contact	×	2	٢,	S
Flexibility, in Repayment Policy	×	,	7	ŗ.
Helpful Other Agency	×		,1	* 4
Devoted Staff	×		2	4
Small Portfolio	X	۲ ×	. 2	4
Student Status Report	X	. 1	Î	. 2
Strong on Public Service	*	1	0	16. 16.
No Cross Borrowing	×		0	
Require Co-maker	X	0	1	1.5
Statement of Attendance	X	0	e Hel	1
Absorb Defaults		0	7.	

1 6 92

Table 42

RECOMMENDATIONS BY LENDERS

							•			_					
RICOMMINDATIONS.	National Bank	State Bank FDIC	ank Non-F	Federal Savings and Loan	State Savings and Loan	Federal Credit Union	State Credit Union	Autual Savings Bank	Insurance Company	Academic Institution.	Direct State Load∄	Other	Academic Institution Vocational Education	Loan Processing ' . Institution	TOTAL
TOTAL LENDERS IN SAMPLE	10	10	0	. 2	2	1	0	2	1	0	ľ	25	- 5	ì	3.7
PREAINIFIATION PERIOD Improve PR program explain/terms fully Avoid first-year student loans Give Moans only to students under 26/ Avoid Moans for 4 years of college Give loans only to full-time students (live only one loan per year per student Avoid Mockitonal student loans INTILITION PARIODS	5 3 1 1 1	1	*	, 1	1,	,		•		•	, ·		• 2	1	11 \$ a
Require co-bakers for all loans Reduce processing for additional loans Relax restrictions for customer status Make system match academic year UPREVIL-PIRION	1 1 1	1				:		1	-				t.	~ 1	1 1
Reduce number of documents required Reduce application approval time Increase minimum family income requirement Iliminate minimum family income requirement Standardize requirements for students not personally interviewed Reduce number of applications lost by OL, Get access to student's academic records Obtain method of evaluating student's potential Istablish standard criteria of need and use it	1 1 1 2	2		1		1		1		•	1 5		3	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	10 6 1 1 1 1 1
DEFIREM PERIOD Require schools to inform lenders of student status changes Allow flexibility for additional deferral time conduct pre-graduation interviews with students Speed up interest payments to lenders The special allowance to economic indicator Less paper work for multiple disbursements Contact students annually during deferral	3 1 1 2	1		1	1 1	4					•	. 1	•1	1	以 5 2 1
GRACE PERIOD Reduce length of grace period Contact students 3 months after graduation RITMYSWINT PERIOD	ļ .	1.	,,						·	o		.	l .	£	2
Simplify loan conversion to pay out status Himinate 5 year repayment requirement Change past due phone procedures OTTUMIT PIRION	1	1				! !				-		1	• . :	1	2 1 1
Use other agency records (IRS, SS, Post Office, etc.) to locate defaulters Make government pay interest from day of default Use private collection agencies to find defaulters Change bankruptcy time to 5 years after graduation CLAIMS PERIOD	1	1 1		•1		œ.			·		4 .7	1	1		3 . 3
Shorten period -make prompt payment to lenders Require OL pay principal and interest -interest payment retroactive GENERAL COMPLETS	2	1		1	1 2	g.:			.1		i	1	*	l	8
Clarify Ol definitions in writing guidelines no retroactive degisions Increase lender compensation fach bank and SQL service own customer Lliminate schools as lenders Strengthen requirements for eligible schools Separate academic and vocational school programs Form tuition lenders association protect from	2 1	1 3 1		1	1			•	1	•.	1	1	2	1 1 1	8 1 3 2 2 1
unethical practices Establish specialized loan service centers Of pay cost of translating documents into foreign language Iliminate movable maturity dates Combine Of 's grant program with GSLP Shorten insurance billing time Have financial institution handle claims for you schools	1	1					2			*	1	1	. 1	1	1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1
Set special allowance every month-not quarter Exempt GSLP from truth-in-lending, etc. Lie GSLP rate to prime lending rate Improve (credibility) relations between OL and lenders lenders should not determine a student's • eligibility for subsidized education	. 1	1			1/			•		- .	٥		,	1	1 1 1 1
 lender not qualified and lender has wested interest the profits from it 	-							1		,	*				1
TOTALS	37	28	0	7	111	1	-,0	4	3	O	4	9	13	18	135





of the lenders themselves. The table aggregates the recommendations made by all 37 lenders, plus the one loan-servicing center visited by RMC. The recommendations are organized vertically by the order in which they would fall in the life of a loan, starting with the pre-initiation period and ending with the claims period. Within each major chronological category, types of recommendations are ordered by decreasing frequency of mention. The horizontal dimension of the table identifies recommendations by type of lender using OE's 13 categories.

The table is very useful in identifying those areas in which the lenders felt change was required. It enables the reader to pick those recommendations that are mentioned with high frequency and also identifies, through frequency of mention, which chronological categories may require the most reform.

The reader can also compare difference in frequency of mention by lender type if frequencies are first divided by the total number of lenders (first row of table). While this analysis cannot be conclusive for separate lender types (since sample sizes are so small in any one category), the breakout is presented to help understand possible causes and to identify trends for further study.

SUMMARY OF LENDER COMMENTS

Neither individual nor comparative tabular summaries provide the reader with the flavor of the actual complaints, comments, or recommendations voiced by lenders during the site visit interviews. Admittedly, there is a wealth of tabular descriptive information from these interviews that should be communicated to OE staff responsible for planning, operating, and evaluating the student loan program. This statement is true even though the comments may represent only one person's opinion and the group of lenders is not necessarily representative of the universe of all GSLP lenders. Therefore, RMC has prepared this section, which presents a narrative summary of lender comments and suggestions, as a way of capturing and communicating that information. Little or no attempt is made here to evaluate or judge the comments; the actual words of the lender spokesmen are used.

wherever possible. For the reader's benefit, similar comments are grouped together and organized around problems that

- I are inherent in the present structure of the GSLP.
- II result from OE's regulation and administration of the program,
- III are related to school policies regarding the students who use the GSLP, and
 - IV are caused by lending institution practices.

Each of these areas will be considered in turn below.

- I. A number of lenders directed their comments to the GSLP itself as it is currently designed.
 - A. Henders cited the low interest rate as a major factor that caused them concern whenever they considered continued participation in the program or a decrease or increase in participation. The present tight money situation was given as an important element in this request for an increase in the interest rate or special allowance. Many felt that the GSLP interest rate should be directly tied to the prime lending rate. They also would like to receive that interest from the day of default when a borrower fails to make repayment.
 - B. Another major criticism of the program as seen by these lenders concerned the difficulty in converting interim loans (in-school period) into pay-off loans, which at present involves two separate operations. They see this process as time-consuming and one that entails unnecessary paper work that adds to their administrative costs. They feel the total process should be combined into one loan.
 - C. Several lenders suggested that an add-on or revolving loan be made available so it would not be necessary to fill out a full set of applications and other papers for each additional loan after the original loan has been approved. One lender said this would reduce their paper work "tremendously." This revolving type of arrangement is commonly used by banks for other types of loans and several lenders suggested the feasibility of using it with the GSLP. One lender suggested adding an amendment to the original loan to serve the same purpose.
 - D. A number of lenders representing various types of institutions suggested that any means by which the government could impress upon students the importance of repaying their loans would be an improvement over the present situation. They felt that students are convinced the federal government will not press them for payment or take punitive actions for default. One lender suggested that some good government public relations might counter this idea.

- Another lender stated that students who defaulted were aware of their obligation to repay, but on several occasions this lender had been told by student defaulters that they had no intention of repaying the loan.
- E. Some lenders suggested that special provisions might be added to the legislation allowing deferral during the internship period of a doctor or dentist. A number of instances were mentioned by lenders when a doctor's low paying internship and residency period made, repayment very difficult. Although the number of students that fall into this problem category is admittedly small, nevertheless, the problem is real and could be easily corrected by a special provision, thus preventing some default in a category that would not normally be expected to default (as well as again reducing the amount of paper work required while attempting to obtain repayment from this group).

The same sort of recommendation applies to those students who return to school for graduate work in any field after repayment has begun on a loan. Graduate students in most areas are also usually not earning sufficient salaries to support a loan payment comfortably, especially if they have families or other financial obligations as well. (Apparently these lenders were not able to use existing deferral regulations for these cases.)

The general request by most lenders who commented on this problem was for more flexibility in the program that would allow them to adjust terms to meet the needs of the students when repayment problems occur.

- F. The problem of tracking students who default is seen by many lenders as one of the most costly aspects of the GSL program. One method by which this problem might be alleviated through the design of the program itself would be to include provisions in the program that would allow the lenders to have access to other federal government agency records to locate defaulters. Agencies such as the Immigration Service and the IRS were mentioned in addition to using the Post Office records as well as records from the NDEA and the Social Security Administration.
- G. Another suggestion made by a direct school (vocational) lender involved a basic change in the GSL program. In view of the relatively high default rate experienced by this type of lender, the change seemed warranted. The spokesman suggested that, since the government also offered a grant program through the Office of Education, this program might be combined with GSLP in such a way that students who needed money for higher education and could not repay their loans due to some valid reason (i.e., lack of sufficient employment, personal emergencies, and the like) be awarded grants. Instead of becoming defaulters, obtaining a bad credit rating, and involving lenders in considerable time and expense in an effort to force them to make repayment when they actually could not do so, these students' loans would be changed to outright grants. The cost to the government would be the same since the government guarantees the defaulted loan.

- Another suggestion by a direct school lender concerned the handling of claims and collections. This type of lender is not a professional lending institution and probably does not have the best knowledge and means by which to operate a lending program. The spokesman suggested that actual lending institutions or collection agencies should handle the claims and collection procedures and might realistically expect better results as a consequence than when an educational institution tries to perform a lender's function.
- I. A suggestion regarding the length of the grace period was repeatedly made by many lenders visited. Most seemed to feel a period of not more than six months should be allowed, while one suggested a three-month period in lieu of the present nine-to-twelve-month period.
 - Different suggestions were made regarding the GSLP regulations concerning the types of institutions considered eligible for GSLP loans. One large commercial bank suggested there should be two separate programs: one for academic schools and one for proprietary schools. Other lenders stated simply that the requirement for eligible education institutions should be strengthened. To RMC interviewers, the consensus seemed to be that many lenders felt a number of institutions were using the program for their own advantages, rather than utilizing the program for its original intent; i.e., assisting students to obtain higher education or professional training. One lender suggested that a federal tuition lenders' association should be developed to protect lenders and students against unethical school practices.
- K. One mutual savings bank expressed a strong concern about the program's basic policy that makes lenders the judge of a student's financial need and qualifications for a GSLP educational loan. The spokesman stressed the point that lending institutions benefit from the loan transaction through earning interest. Therefore, he felt the lender should not be the one who determines who to subsidize for higher education. He suggested that schools have the available information regarding an applicant's educational history and potential and would be better judges of the relative likelihood of the student's success in an educational program than any financial institution. Of course, this suggestion would not pertain to those educational institutions that also act as lenders under the present arrangement.
- L. A number of lenders cited the use of a co-signer on a student's loan as a practice that had produced a significant reduction in default rates in their portfolios. Other lenders indicated they would require a co-signer if such a provision was allowed by the regulations:
- II. A second area of concern to many of the lenders visited dealt with those matters that were directly related to OE's regulations and administration of the existing programs.

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A common request among these lenders was for clearer definitions of terms and guidelines for procedures to be followed. often repeated complaint was the ambiguity of the term 'due diligence" as applied to the efforts a lender must make to obtain repayment on a mature loan. An example cited by one large commercial bank illustrates this point. The lender noted that OE had been returning to the lender and asking (requiring) the lender to repurchase loans for which the lender had collected default claims, but on which OE eventually found the student and established repayment. The question was raised regarding at which point a lender had complied with OE's requirements. Why should the lender buy back a loan and entail further costs of administration after it and OE have already agreed once that the bank had exercised due diligence in trying to find the student? Exactly the same position was stated by another commercial bank lender when its state agency had begun to return loans to it under identical circumstances. This lender took the position that it was not obligated to take back these loans since the initial requirement for default had been established.

The above decisions were considered by the lenders as being retroactive in nature, as well as being inconsistent with other actions taken by OE. The lenders stressed the point that OE should not make retroactive decisions that modify existing contractual loan arrangements. Such a retroactive effect sometimes creates loss positions in existing loans that a lender could have otherwise avoided. Conducting operations on a business-like basis that honored contracts was implicit in these recommendations. One lender spokesman said (and several others implied) that the difficulties they experienced with OE's management of the program were among their primary reasons for withdrawing or drastically reducing their participation in GSLP.

Many of the lenders RMC visited cited similar problems. Suggestions were made repeatedly that OE supply some clear, consistent written guidelines that would clarify ambiguities within OE's instructions to lenders. One lender suggested these guidelines should be published by OE quarterly and should contain nontechnical terminology that would include special regulations and a section that documented specific types of problems.

Another area of complaints centered around OE's slowness, the long time involved in obtaining approvals of loans by OE, and repayment of claims. The first area is one of inconvenience and frustration to the applicant. Reports of waiting four to six weeks for approval were commonplace. However, the second area often results in loss of money to the lender. Lenders requested that the government pay interest from the day of default for all loans to reduce this cost to the lender. Long delays in receiving payment from OE after default claims were filed was also commonly cited by lenders. These delays ranged from one to six months. Several lenders brought out examples of these dated claims and showed them to the RMC interviewers to substantiate their statements.

Another OE delay was described as a 45-day waiting period for a lender to receive payment for the quarterly invoice covering the special allowance, a factor that was cited as adding significantly to the operating costs of lenders. Yet another example of OE slowness was in the pre-claim assistance area, where it took a minimum of 45 days (and more often close to 90) for OE to provide assistance.

- C. Lenders who expressed a desire for a decrease in paper work cited the earlier-mentioned OE delays as increasing their paper work loads. Likewise, the lengthy and numerous forms required by OE for each step of a loan's processing were mentioned as a part of the excessive paper work. When terms are ambiguous and need written clarification, the paper work load for the lender is also increased. This one comment was consistent among all types of lenders visited. Lenders find excessive paper work increases the costs of the GSLP for them and, since the program operates on a basis that provides them less return on their money than similar loan programs, they strongly object to any excessive paper work connected with such a program. Another area that was cited as causing large amounts of paper work was the way in which multiple disbursements have to be made. One lender suggested a special fund might be set up through the schools to handle these disbursements.
- D. Many lender's requested a change in OE's special allowance which was cited as inadequate in the face of the present tight money situation. An increase in the special allowance or the interest rate would help the cost situation considerably in the view of most lenders interviewed.
- operation from the schools that benefitted from the GSLP.
 - The area most frequently mentioned was that concentred with obtaining students' status reports from the educational institutions themselves. When students change their names, enter/military service, transfer to other schools, quit the program, or move from their original addresses, the school is aware of these changes and has them in its records. However, the lenders have had very little success in obtaining any of this information from the schools. Some schools have cited privacy as a controlling factor, while others have mentioned the time and staffing they have allotted to this student loan program as inadequate to meet lenders' requests. However, the lenders "have found that, when the request comes officially through state or federal agencies, they have fewer problems with the schools. Other lenders complained that, although OE could obtain and provide this information, the material usually didn't reach them in a reasonable period of time (or didn't reach them at all). Lenders suggest that one of the provisions of schools accepting students who use the GSLP should be that the schools provide lenders with the necessary records and information. Again, this request does not apply to those schools that act as lender themselves. One large educational institution had been sending postcards to notify the lenders of student status

- changes. This was the only school doing so in connection with any of the institutions interviewed and was cited as extremely helpful by the lender involved.
- B. Many lenders were aware of abuses of the GSL program by certain schools. This problem was discussed in an earlier section, but would probably require major policy changes to alleviate it.
- IV. Finally, the lenders saw areas of concern within their own and other lending practices. Through experience and modification, several lenders that had been involved in the program since its inception had developed methods of reducing their problems. Their comments are also included in these remarks.
 - A. One area consistently checked concerned the question of cross-borrowing. Although several of the lenders visited did permit this practice, most who had done so earlier now restricted loans to present bank customers who had no other educational loans with other lenders. The comment was often made that each lending institution should service its own customers, thus spreading the burden opportunity among all eligible institutions in a given area.
 - B. In conjunction with the above comment, it was suggested by many lenders that, although the program did pose certain inconveniences (and sometimes losses) and seldom provided as good a return on their money as other loan programs, the GSLP nevertheless did provide a real service to the community. The GSLP can be used by the lenders as a community service in their own public relations and advertising. Several suggested, in fact, that the federal government should stress this point wherever the program is presented to students and impress upon them that the lender does not stand to make any huge profits from the program.
 - C. Certain restrictions on eligibility for loans had proven useful to many lenders in controlling default. They included limiting the amount of money loaned to any student during one school term, disallowing loans to freshmen (thus selecting applicants with a proven academic survival record/as well as effectively eliminating loans to the higher risk, short-term proprietary schools), choosing applicants who were already customers of the lender, choosing applicants with a past history of good scholastic marks, limiting loans to students under 26 years of age, and excluding part-time students.
 - D. Many lenders had noticed when parents or others co-signed regular loans there was considerably less difficulty in tracing a student who defaulted and obtaining repayment because the co-signers helped in both processes. As mentioned earlier, a number of lenders said they would prefer to require co-signers if such a provision could be written into the program.

E. Some lenders did not actually make credit checks on their applicants or use the material when it was supplied unless the applicant's credit record was unquestionably poor. However, those who did make thorough checks and made good use of their findings reported the practice was very beneficial in relation to lower default records since they had initiated the practice. Another related observation by one lender included its successful use of a detailed application form that required not only credit information, but also estimates of incomes and expenses, personal references, employment history, Social Security number, driver's license number, and permission from the students to have full access to their academic records while using the loans.

Most of the lenders indicated that a personal interview was an important part of the application process, although not all lenders visited actually conducted one.

- F. Another practice that several lenders had found very useful was that of requiring the borrowers to read and sign a letter of responsibility before they obtained loans. This letter would repeat the repayment terms. In one lending institution, actual seminars were held with groups of borrowers (and sometimes their parents), where the substance of the loan terms were carefully explained and discussed, again stressing the borrower's obligation to repay. The lenders who used these practices felt they had contributed significantly to a reduction in their default rates.
- G. Lenders who remained in close contact with their borrowers throughout the life of the loan and carried on correspondence prior to graduation and during the grace period seemed to feel they had a much better chance of obtaining repayment than if they had failed to do so. Of course, this effort represented a considerable investment in time and additional paper work over a period of many months and often years. But again, lenders who followed this policy seemed to feel it was one of their best methods of encouraging repayment and reduced the necessity of later tracing and persuasion problems, delays for claims payments (with loss of interest), etc., at the end of the grace period.

Several lenders also conducted exit interviews with loan holders immediately prior to or following graduation as part of an effort to establish contact before the graduate had become difficult to locate.

H. Many lenders reported that some students had difficulty fulfilling repayment terms. Whenever lenders had a policy of trying to work problems out with these students, they were generally successful in doing so. These lenders reported they felt the additional time spent and the flexibility of terms they permitted were worth the additional effort because it helped prevent possible defaults.



- Almost without exception, the problem most often mentioned by lenders was that of trying to trace their borrowers when it was time for repayment. Because lenders do not have access to other government records and because many schools are not cooperative in this respect. the lenders are often forced to hire professional collection agencies to assist them in this task or else devote a great deal of their own staffs' time and effort to the problem in order to prove that "due diligence" was exercised. This, of course, increases the costs of the program to the lender and, as mentioned earlier, help from any other federal agency or the schools would be highly appreciated. Those lenders who are primarily educational institutions and secondarily acting as lenders often find this particular aspect of the program very difficult. One lender cited the high cost of searching for students all around the United States and sometimes outside the country as one of its primary reasons for phasing out of the program.
- J. RMC interviewers noted that those lending institutions that tried to manually manage the records connected with GSLP expressed more problems and discontent with the program than those who had computerized services. Of course, the size of the operation involved was an important factor in the need for and benefits of automation. Only a very small lender with a small portfolio did not have some difficulty managing the record-keeping involved. Several of the larger operations represented centralized services for a group of smaller branch banks. Again, if the portfolio of GSLP loans was large and computerized, there were fewer problems expressed than if the services were managed manually. Some smaller lenders felt they did not have the financial resources to justify the costs of computerizing their GSLP operations.
- K. Several lenders suggested there was a direct relationship between the difficulties they had in obtaining repayment and the number of loans given to vocational education students. Other lenders did not see this area of student loans as one that presented any particular difficulty, but rather preferred these loans because of their relatively short-term duration. However, most of the lenders interviewed felt otherwise, unless they themselves fell into the category of vocational schools that acted as lenders.

In summary, most of the lenders visited were aware of the importance of the GSL program. Although the lenders recognized the value of the program to students and the community, they felt the costs of the program were expensive compared with the monetary benefits received. Lenders tended to look on the program as a community service rather than a good financial investment. Most lenders were in the lending business and felt their experience and expertise would result in a more efficient program if the lenders were allowed more flexibility. They see areas of the program that could be

improved. If some of those improvements were made, lenders feel the relative costs could be decreased, which, of course, would make the program more attractive to them from a financial point of view. As a result of the tight money market, many of the lenders we visited felt that, whenever possble, improvements in the GSLP should be made to encourage continued lender participation in this worthwhile program.

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the conclusions and recommendations prepared by RMC Research after examining the data obtained from GSLP lenders. Probably the most beneficial result of the project is the extensive data on the operations and behavior of both GSLP lenders and borrowers, which has been fully discussed in previous chapters. Rather than repeat the items discussed earlier, this chapter focuses on the major patterns and unexpected results.

Although the wide-scale structured mail survey of lenders provided the primary basis for these conclusions and recommendations, RMC also drew upon the more limited site-visit interviews. Two other mail surveys were conducted. The first survey was sent directly to borrowers, but this survey did not prove as useful as originally hoped because of a proportionally low number of responses from defaulters and minority groups. The low number of responses resulted in estimates of less precision than originally hoped for. Nevertheless, many interesting areas had differences so pronounced that the lack of precision did not compromise the character of the results, and these have been taken into account.

The second survey covering borrowers was sent to lenders. Included in the approximately 5,000 responses were over 660 responses describing defaulters and a proportional number describing minorities. This survey provides a reliable data base for making inferences about these subpopulations.

STUDY CONCLUSIONS

In an overall sense, the collection and analysis of lender data from the survey has produced a much greater understanding of operations and attitudes of lenders participating in the Guaranteed Student Loan Program. Moreover, by conducting this survey in a systematic way with a representative sample of GSLP lenders, the results are worthy of more confidence than isolated or unverified comments volunteered by some lenders (often precipitated by particular problems). This is true even in those subject areas where the survey supports previously held beliefs. Since the survey obtained valid responses from about 70 percent of the lenders selected (and this represented about 72 percent of the GSLP borrowers in repayment), RMC feels there is a solid base for conclusions about lender behavior and attitudes. Although (as in any survey) it is not possible to completely eliminate the possibility that lenders modified their responses to present a biased picture beneficial to them, RMC found no evidence of any trend in this direction.

Before presenting specific conclusions, it is worthwhile to review the major objectives of the lender survey as previously presented in Chapter 1 and to summarize the success of the survey in achieving these objectives.

- (1) To expand on the information lenders currently report to the Office of Education, particularly for data needed on a one-time basis for OE's Loan Estimation Model. The lender survey of the study has clearly provided several types and amounts of additional information concerning lender operations and behavior. OE's Loan Estimation Model is helped by the addition or verification of GSLP operational data that are needed to estimate parameters of the model--for example, (1) the classification of loan status, which bears on the distribution of loans within the model and on establishing transition probabilities for borrower progression from one loan status to another, and (2) estimation of average repayment amounts and duration.
- (2) To determine lender experience with loan defaults that will be used to evaluate the OE data file and to assess certain qualitative aspects of the loan office portfolio. Considerable qualitative data on lender experience with loan defaults were obtained by the survey, but only limited information on quantitative default rates for lenders was obtained (because not enough lenders provided aggregate quantitative default data). However, some quantitative estimates of default were obtained from lender-supplied data in the RMC sample of borrowers.

- (3) To determine some of the important procedures relating to lender administration of guaranteed loans. This objective was fully satisfied from the lender survey; it provided both empirical data on active lender procedures as well as on lender preferences/attitudes on many aspects of GSLP admiristration.
- To estimate some of the primary costs associated with the administration of guaranteed loans. This survey did not completely succeed in obtaining lender costs for administering GSLP because of the inability of lenders to identify or provide such data. However, the survey did succeed in obtaining relative cost information for major cost categories involved in administering GSLP.
- To determine some of the opinions, viewpoints, and more formal policies that constitute lender response in the structural and administrative requirements of the GSL program. This objective was fully satisfied through lender responses to a series of questions on GSLP requirements and possible program changes, particularly as it relates to participation by the lender in this program.
- (6) To determine certain aspects of borrower repayment experience with lenders. This objective was fully satisfied through data obtained from Tenders concerning a representative sample of GSLP borrowers.

In summary, the survey and resulting analysis were able to achieve the original study objectives related to lender operations, with the exception of the two areas identified above where only partial results were obtained. The following sections discuss specific areas of interest.

Participation of Lenders in GSLP

Conclusions related to the willingness of lenders to make loans to students under this program can be grouped around the following three areas:

• The primary purpose cited by lenders for participating in GSLP involved serving their customers or the community in general. Discussions during lender site revealed that, to some



lenders, GSLP was an obvious part of a public relations or community service objective. Loans for educational purposes are recognized as a legitimate need of the appropriate constituent group, and lending institutions used GSLP as a vehicle to serve that need. This was a previously held belief and has been confirmed by this survey.

- Despite lender interest in serving customers, the survey results are heavily laced with lender concern about economic return. Although various lenders focused on different aspects of the economic equation (e.g., higher interest rates, lower administration costs, more lender flexibility), the real concern appeared to be the net contribution toward profits. At the same time, the site visits did not find a high concern about earning or maximizing profits. Instead, a strong concern to at least break even-that is, to achieve other objectives while not suffering any overall loss from the program--was seen. This concern for at least breaking even, rather than earning high profits, probably reflects somewhat the abnormally tight money market in the period just preceding this survey. However, these implications must still be significant to OE if it desires to increase loan funds available through GSLP since 70 percent of lenders (covering 52 percent of the borrowers) had no expectations of increasing their level of participation. The action most likely to bring about additional investment funds is clearly that which will improve actual returns to lenders (including reducing administrative burden and, hence, lender costs). This preoccupation with economic returns is not surprising given the profit motives of most of the lending institutions.
- Lenders are significantly concerned about the amount and growth of federal "paper work and red tape" required by GSLP. most lending institutions, GSLP represents less than 5 percent of their loan investments, but takes a far greater proportion of their administrative efforts. A few say they are dropping out of the program primarily for that reason. During the site visits, lenders consistently commented that they wanted more flexibility in their actions under GSLP. While they were partly motivated by the desire to reduce the amount of paper work and record-keeping, it was also clear that many lenders felt their regular ways of operating in a lending environment were adequate and they could achieve better results in their own way. though this self-interest probably contributed to some of these lender statements, it is also likely that there is considerable truth in their beliefs. There is a wide variety of recordkeeping systems among the many types and sizes of lenders participating in GSLP. It is difficult (and expensive) for many to meet all federal data requirements without modifying their systems (the same was true for meeting the data requests of this survey).

Student Access to GSLP Loans

Contrary to generally held opinions, (GSLP is not a student aid program accessible or open to all students. Entirely separate from GSLP legislation provisions and OE regulations, large numbers of lenders have introduced additional constraints that limit student eligibility. These include large numbers of lenders who restrict loans to existing customers, do not give loans to first-year students, do not give loans to vocational school students, or prohibit loans to students holding (SLP loans from other lenders. However justifiable the particular lender may feel these provisions are, the net effect is a differential pattern of student accessibility to GSLP funds. There is a dual rationale for these lender-initiated constraints: (1) a judgment that the student or the program is best served by not granting certain types of loans, and (2) as a way to ration the investment of lender funds in a program operating at a net loss. The data from this survey do not allow an assignment of relative cause between these factors.

Effect of Lender Size

The level of lender participation in GSLP was found to be the most useful explanatory variable in understanding lender responses. There is a very wide distribution of GSLP lender size, as measured by the number of borrowers who have reached the repayment stage. A very large number of lenders each have a small participation in GSLP. Almost half of the lenders have less than 50 borrowers in repayment and almost three-quarters have less than 100. An analysis of the survey data reveals that this size variable has a strong effect in explaining many other observed relationships and procedures. For example, there is a significant tendency for the smaller lenders to have considerably more occurrences of zero default situations, and to spend proportionately less of their costs on finding defaulters and preparing claims. Smaller lenders are also much more likely to require customer status before granting loans.



Distribution of Default

Although the available lender data did not allow extensive analysis of default rates, it is clear that the phenomenon of default was not evenly distributed among lenders. The amount of defaults is concentrated in certain geographical areas. However, as mentioned above, the large lenders had considerably more of the default occurrence, and this therefore explained much of the geographical dispersion since certain geographical areas had larger concentrations of larger lenders. Forty-nine percent of the lenders filed no claims for default during 1973, but they represented only 13 percent of the borrowers in repayment. In addition, the lender-supplied data on the sample of borrowers revealed much higher than average default rates for vocational schools that act as direct lenders (47 percent default) and savings and loan associations (26 percent). Credit unions had much lower than average rates (7 percent).

Lender Difficulties Locating Borrowers

It is clear that one of the biggest problems facing lenders in administering GSLP was locating students during the repayment and default periods. A large part of this problem concerns invalid addresses and lack of knowledge about students changing loan status or location. This is verified by RMC's borrowers survey, which still had 58 percent of its defaulters and 26 percent of its nondefaulters with invalid addresses, even after extensive follow-up activities using credit bureau checks and IRS tax return addresses. Lenders consistently described lack of cooperation and assistance from schools attended by the borrowers in verification of loan status changes and assistance in tracing defaulting borrowers.

State Guarantee Agencies

While this survey did not include sufficient observations to make conclusions about individual or groups of state guarantee agencies, site visits (and other information) indicate that a wide variety of assistance and effectiveness exists among state guarantee agencies—with a few state guarantee agencies establishing data systems and providing assistance to lenders far more than the federal program. Some state guarantee agencies

also have different definitions and procedures for default claims, therefore making it difficult to aggregate data from the federal and state guarantee program components.

Validity of OE GSLP Data

One subsidiary objective of the study was to compare data, where possible, covering the same variables obtained from this survey with those contained in GSLP files of OE. This provides a measure of the data validity, but there was no opportunity for field investigations to determine the "true" value of each variable. For its purposes, RMC assumed the more recent data it received directly from the lender represented the correct situation at that time.

RMC found substantial differences in status code information. Lender status code information indicated that 10 percent of those classified as defaulters by the Office of Education were in repayment or paid in full. It was also found that 18.5 percent of those classified as defaulters by the lenders were classified by OE as in repayment, paid in full, or in the grace period. Another 16.7 percent were classified as withdrawn by OE-thus 44 percent of the defaulters identified by the lenders were nondefaulters on the GSLS II files. While some of these differences are probably caused by time lags in reporting status changes to OE, a substantial number are likely to be continuing errors. Therefore, any analysis or other uses that depend upon loan status data from the GSLP master file should be interpreted very carefully.

Borrower addresses from the GSLP master file had even greater occurrences of incomplete or wrong data. In this case, there is no solid basis for establishing an error rate; RMC's subjective estimate after fifteen months of working with the addresses is that about 60 percent are either incomplete or inaccurate. In particular, most'street addresses are missing. This is not meant to be critical of the file maintenance because it is understood that the files were not intended to be used for borrower tracing (except for the special subfile of defaulters). However, for any contemplated use of these address data, one must understand their limitations and incompleteness.

The quality of biographical variables was good. Only one error was found in the sex code and an error rate of 5 percent was found for the race code.

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There were no comparable estimates available to us relating the financial information contained in the file to the estimates we derived, specifically for the repayment population. The only comparable study dealt with the total GSLP borrower population and provided estimates based on the loan as a unit of measurement and not the individual in repayment, which is the case with this study.

Defaulter Characteristics

A major focus of this study was to uncover the characteristics of defaulters and institutions that have a high proportion of defaulters. Through a series of two-way analyses of the borrower data supplied by lenders, certain distinctive features of the defaulter population were discovered. We found the following groups to have significantly higher default rates than the average over the entire program:

- students from vocational schools—in particular, students from vocational schools acting as direct lenders; and
- students with weak lender relationships--this includes students that lenders cannot find, students who do not get their loans from the lenders in a face-to-face encounter, students who do not fully understand their obligations and rights.

We found the number of loans and amount of debt essentially unrelated to default. However, we did not have enough observations to effectively analyze the very highest debtors as a group.

Lender Relationships

Defaulters as a group have a very loose relationship with the lender, from which they borrow. Many of them do not ever meet with the lender; they report that they do not understand most of the loan terms or their rights and responsibilities. Many defaulters are never found by the lender when repayment is scheduled to begin. Sixty percent of the defaulters come from families with no account relationship with the lender; only 30 percent of the nondefaulters do.

^{1.} Systems Group, Inc., Loan Analysis of the Guaranteed Student Loan Program (CSLP) (October 1973).

Type of School

Vocational schools as a group exhibit default rates more than twice as high as colleges and universities. Vocational schools that also act as direct lenders exhibit default rates near 50 percent--about four times higher than colleges and universities. We cannot conclude that the problem is a lack of quality in the vocational school programs, although our site visits have confirmed this in certain cases. The vocational schools appear to attract students who are often unqualified for more advanced studies, who may not be high school graduates, and who might not be realistically qualified to undertake any sort of academic program. Some vocational schools have responded to these students by screening them; others seem to have used them simply to expand their enrollments or their default claims.

STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the survey data and the experiences obtained by this project, RMC Research has prepared the following recommendations concerning the Guaranteed Student Loan Program. While it is realized that some changes to GSLP are being contemplated (or already started) as a result of the variety of other investigations and studies conducted within OE and Congress, these recommendations are based only on the current survey and site visits. Some of these recommendations would require legislative changes and some could be implemented by OE through modification of its own guidelines and procedures.

One special and important nature of any recommendations must be recognized from the very beginning. Formulating a recommendation for specific action to be taken implies an assumption about a desirable or preferred outcome. Since a complex program such as GSLP has several objectives, it is often necessary to establish priorities among competing objectives—or to decide between objectives when an action has opposing effects upon them. For some simple cases, such as improving the operating efficiency of the program, there may be little difficulty in obtaining agreement on the goal and methods of achieving it, but, as a counter-example, consider the goal of reducing a growing OE program cost by minimizing high loan default, which

at the same time will reduce the access of certain groups of borrowers or schools to GSLP loans for financing their educational programs. Choices must be faced, such as--Is default by anyone tolerable, even if guarantees by the federal government mean that certain population groups are thus heavily subsidized, while other groups are not? Or does the extension by Congress in recent years of GSLP eligibility to vocational schools and students mean that very high default rates by this group are acceptable social policy.

The reason for raising this issue is to point out that formulating recommendations requires value judgments—judgments that should not be made by a contractor, but by Congress or its delegated policy-makers. It is not appropriate for RMC to make what is basically a political decision that affects redistribution of income and equity of treatment. Therefore, RMC has attempted to clearly state such implications along with its recommendations, wherever appropriate.

Recommendations Affecting Lenders

When this survey was initiated, there was concern that the lenders were reducing their total dollar investment in GSLP and that this reduction might limit the ability of the program to supply significant amounts of needed student financial aid. While improving money market conditions may have diluted the impact of this concern, it is still important to identify the factors that would encourage or reinforce participation in GSLP since the whole concept of guaranteed loans depends heavily on leveraged funds from nongovernmental direct lenders. Intertwined with the factors that would encourage lenders to maintain or increase GSLP investments are various administrative actions that would increase the efficiency of the current program and in that way reduce lenders' costs and other difficulties.

If GSLP investment levels are to be maintained, OE should pay closer attention to maintaining competitive rates of return to lenders. OE has the ability to increase the special allowance rate (up to 3 percent maximum) and might be able to take some administrative actions to reduce lender operating costs. During times of rapidly changing money market conditions (such as the last two years), OE must exercise its full ability to ensure that most lenders do not reach the position where average of



marginal GSLP revenues do not at least equal GSLP costs. OE was very slow to respond to this issue during recent times and many lenders lost confidence in OE and reacted accordingly.

If greater investment in GSLP is desired, OE should increase economic returns to lenders significantly. Lenders are already investing in GSLP to serve their customers and obtain community good will. To divert significantly greater funds from other investment areas, RMC believes lenders would require substantial increases in rates of return from present levels. Any combination of OE actions to increase interest revenue or reduce lender costs would have this effect, based upon lender responses to this survey.

OE should give consideration to several administrative improvements that would increase the efficiency of lender operations (and probably have positive effects on effectiveness and lender willingness to participate). Measures aimed specifically at reducing default will be separately discussed subsequently.

- Define "due diligence" in specific terms so lenders will know what their actions should be before filing default claims. There is substantial confusion and resentment among lenders; much inefficiency results. While defining "due diligence" in very general terms may encourage some lenders to continue their efforts even further, the uncertainties involved increase operating costs and polarize relations. Many lenders are convinced their lending experience allows them to judge early in the process which borrowers are never going to start repaying; they would rather stop after some minimum collection effort and concentrate their efforts on other cases where they think it would help more. For example, some borrowers have directly told lender staff they definitely could not or would not make any repayments (and they didn't).
- Redesign forms and procedures to allow a much simpler process when a previous borrower receives an additional loan. It could be considered an "add-on" loan (or amendment) rather than a whole new loan. The lenders (and OE) would be saved considerable paper work and record-keeping. Approval could even be automatic, with problems being resolved on an exception basis. Lenders indicate that subsequent loans are disapproved at the federal or state level in only a very small number of cases. At present, the typical student in a four-year college program has four separate loans and essentially four separate sets of records. Many lenders already use the revolving or add-on types of loans in their regular business or non-GSLP educational loans. Similarly,



OE should help control lender costs by avoiding the temptation to attack every apparent abuse or variant with new regulations or reporting forms. Admittedly, it is difficult for a federal agency to maintain a proper balance, given its central but remote location from actual lending operations, but it is an important goal to keep in mind. Perhaps the exceptions principle, widely used in the management of the nongovernmental sector, might be applied here (the exceptions principle allows approval by/an operating agency, and only the small numbers of exceptions or problem cases are reviewed or approved by a higher-level review agency).

Investigate the feasibility of OE doing more central recordkeeping to reduce lender costs and capitalize on large-scale computer operations. Under OE's control, it may also be possible to make better use of other federal records (IRS, Social Security, etc.) to help find missing borrowers. More assistance of this latter type was a common lender request.

Recommendations Intended to Reduce Loan Default

High and growing borrower default on GSLP loans was a serious problem at the initiation of this study and continues to be so. The cost of paying for these unexpectedly large numbers of defaults continued to be an increasing problem for all parties concerned--OE, HEW, Congress, and lenders. While other recommendations described here do have effects on the default process, this section includes specific recommendations aimed at this problem area, based on the data and experiences of this survey.

If the current high default rate has as serious an impact as it appears, OE should limit the eligibility of certain types of borrowers or lenders. This exclusionary approach is a very stringent step, but it may be necessary if the high federal appropriation now required and the attendant bad publicity on nonrepayment provide a threat to the continued existence or viability of the loan program. Since default was found to be concentrated in certain population groups, the rationale is to exclude those borrowers least likely to repay their loans. While equity and wide access to student loans are admittedly constrained by this action, it should be recalled that other aid programs (e.g., BOEG) are intended to help with grants for many of the borrowers expected to be affected. Consideration should be given to one or more of the following policies:

- Add expected ability to repay as a criterion for GSLP loan eligibility. This would add a dimension to the eligibility requirements much like that applied by lending institutions in their regular course of business where a guarantee against nonrepayment of principal is not available. This recommendation builds upon the observations of this survey that found many defaulters who dropped out of their programs did not appear qualified to undertake the program of study, were not able to get employment after graduation, or were unable to earn sufficient earnings to repay the GSLP loan. Two basic criteria could be applied by the lender: (1) Does the borrower have a reasonable chance of succeeding in the proposed program of study?, and (2) Does the program of study, considering the borrower's situation, promise to provide the borrower the potential to repay the loan? Possible screening requirements under the first criterion could be a high school diploma or test certification, or having successfully completed a portion of the training or school program already. Under the second criterion, perhaps a financial aid analysis--including the borrower's expected future earnings after completing the program and the repayment burden (educational and non-educational) the borrower will have at that time--could be These screening procedures could be expected to eliminate from the program many people with a low probability of repayment. Both lender and borrower survey responses reported over half of the individual defaulters did not complete their educational programs: Although including the above factors in awarding loans would be admittedly difficult to implement, successful application of these policies have a potential impact of cutting default rates by a maximum of 50 percent, based on defaulter data obtained by this survey.
- would have a dramatic effect, since it would simultaneously eliminate certain lenders, borrowers, and students of doubtful quality. However, it would disproportionately eliminate minorities, women, students from low-income backgrounds, and other such groups. This, of course, is a reverse of the extension to GSLP added by Congress a few years ago. However, the data from this survey (reinforced by other data) show that vocational students clearly have higher default rates. The potential impact of this policy would be to lower default rates by as much as 7 percent.
- Establish two separate programs—one for vocational schools and one for regular academic collegiate programs. While this policy would theoretically have no direct impact on reducing the default rate, it would clearly focus attention on the different nature of the two programs. Different eligibility requirements could



then be established for the two programs and the special problems of both vocational school students and vocational institutions could be addressed. The attention of all parties concerned would be focused on relative default rates, and subsidizing the two programs may be justified on different grounds. At a later point, it might even be possible to convert the vocational school program to a grant program, thus better suiting the needs of that student group.

- Do not allow vocational schools to act as direct lenders. This policy is a corollary of the recommendation above, and would eliminate possible conflict-of-intenest situations. Vocational school students would still be eligible to obtain loans from regular lenders, assuming their school was still considered eligible as an educational institution. While eliminating some particularly messy situations, this policy would have only a small impact on the overall program default rate since the number of such lenders is relatively small.
 - Allow lenders to require co-signers and encourage lenders to require previous family account relationships. Either or both of these requirements would be aimed at getting someone else to assist or pressure the borrower to repay his loan obligation. They also facilitate greatly the location of borrowers when time for repayment arrives or when repayment stops. The family account relationship requirement could be a problem for certain large lenders because they might be open to charges of illegal monopoly or restraint of trade in their market areas. However, this survey found that a large percentage of GSLP lenders already require such customer relationships and there are indications that such lenders have less default than others. Although GSLP legislation would have to be changed to allow lenders to require co-signers, our site visits to lenders found some who required co-signers to disperse USAF funds and regular educational programs. The site visits also found most lenders would use such a provision for co-signers if it was allowed by CSLP regulations. The impact of the co-signer policy is unknown, but probably very significant. The impact of the previous family relationship could be to lower default rates as much as 5 percent. Of course, both of the above restrictions would severely limit access to certain socio-economic and demographic groups of students.

OE should implement various administrative policy changes specifically aimed at reducing high borrower default. These potential changes should reduce the inability to locate borrowers at repayment time and otherwise improve the ability to collect loan obligations.

- Tighten up OE's loan collection process on defaulted loans. While OE has undertaken direct collection for loans on which it has paid lender claims for default, there is still considerable room for tightening this process. Improvements should be made in both the depth and breadth of this collection process--that is, additional staff and resources should be allocated to this collection effort and individual collection cases pursued further. The advantages of this process are felt not just on the loans being collected, but on all other loans through the dissemination (officially and unofficially) of information that intensive collection efforts by the federal government are underway. Procedures for intensifying this effort include taking some defaulters to court action, where some resources for repayment exist; threatening and carrying out the action of informing all credit sources that the borrower has defaulted (e.g., thus preventing the obtaining of house mortgages, etc.); and using the full strength of the federal government to collect obligations (e.g., tax liens, wage garnishees, employer notifications). Contract's could also be established with private collection agencies that specialize in this activity. While the federal government may be reluctant to pursue some of these options because of concern about bad public relations, the equity and public relations value from many other borrowers who did repay their loans should also be considered.
- Establish direct contact between the Office of Education and the borrower. OE could receive the original student application or could communicate directly with borrowers once the lender has approved the loan. The principal value of this approach is that all borrowers would have a uniform introduction to the GSL program. All borrowers would be informed of their rights and obligations and would have the chance to change their minds easily without confronting the school or the lender. OE would gain the knowledge that, at least initially, the home address on the application was accurate. This direct OE contact could also be extended to include the requirement for annual or other periodic identification by the borrower of current status and location (such as the annual alien registration cards required by law).
 - Require annual notification to lenders by student or school. This requirement is aimed at the lenders' difficulty in knowing student location or change of status under the present procedures where OE is the intermediary. It is also aimed at the lack of cooperation by many schools regarding lender requests for information. With this requirement, the school would have to directly notify the lender when students discontinued their academic programs. In addition, this measure would presumably make it easier to trace students. The address problems encountered in this survey make it clear that something along this line must be done. Perhaps reimbursing schools for monitoring and tracing GSLP students would be a cost-effective way of reducing default.

• Limit the GSLP access of schools or lenders with excessively high default rate experience. This provision will focus attention on institutions with high default rates and limit the addition of new loans with high probability of future default. These new regulations could take the form of prohibiting new loans when cumulative default rates exceed a certain limit (say twice the overall national rate) unless OE finds special circumstances to justify an exception:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

RMC Research sees the value of OE continuing research in certain areas related to GSLP. This section identifies and briefly describes these recommended areas.

- OE should continue to improve the quality of the GSLP data base. Considerable information is collected and maintained in the GSLP loan control master files, but some parts of it are known to be out of date or of uncertain quality. Continued efforts to validate data elements and to improve their quality are valuable. This is particularly true for such critical information as loan control status and information that allows location of students. At the same time, the master file contains a lot of historical information that is not used in any critical decisions and therefore is of less importance.
- OE should periodically apdate the findings of this survey. is particularly important for information concerning the perceptions of both lenders and borrowers since it can be expected to change over time. Furthermore, changes in the GSLP regulations and administration as well as fluctuating economic conditions can be expected to alter some of the results obtained by this survey. Clearly, the survey was cross-sectional in nature at a particular point in time and other periodic cross-sectional examinations would also be valuable. Better still would be a special sample of borrowers to be examined on a longitudinal basis. For example, a small stratified sample (say, 2 percent) could be taken periodically of GSLP borrowers as they receive their first loan. Separate files, which recorded all aspects of the progress through the GSLP loan and repayment process could be maintained for this group. Special questionnaires could even be sent to those borrowers (with extra payments for their cooperation in supplying additional information if necessary). Charting the progress of this special sample could provide a substantial amount of valuable information over and above the normal status information required for all borrowers.
- OE should investigate operating costs of lenders. The GSLP operating costs of lenders are still an important question that has impact on the actual net economic returns (and therefore on their motivation to participate in GSLP). Information on lender costs is very difficult to obtain, as reinforced by the small attempts of this study. RMC recommends that OE undertake

concentrated efforts to obtain cost data needed for such analysis from a small but representative group of lenders. Because of the varying accounting systems maintained by lenders and the extra efforts of obtaining this information, OE would have to spend significant time on-site at most lenders to properly prepare usable information on costs and revenues. However, with such information, there is a considerable amount of economic analysis that could be carried out to substantially improve the understanding of GSLP relationships.

- OE should study the operations of GSLP state guarantee agencies to learn from their successful experiences. This study did not provide an opportunity to individually investigate any state guarantee agency operations, but there are indications that several case study examinations (of perhaps six-to-eight selected state guarantee agencies) would assist OE in understanding extemplary practices and perhaps to extend those practices to other state agencies and to the federal level.
 - OE should examine the problems of CSLP schools. This study had little opportunity to directly observe the problems and needs of educational institutions participating in GSLP, yet they are an important part of the successful operation of this program. A survey that directly addressed their attitudes and operations would also be very useful. For example, better understanding is needed of the role Guaranteed Student Loans play in student financial aid packages provided by educational institutions. Educational institutions apparently have an impact on default rates, and subsamples would be needed for various types of schools, such as vocational schools, proprietary schools, and junior colleges.
 - Oi should investigate policy effects and causal relationships. If any of the previous recommendations are pursued for eliminating certain high defaulting groups of borrowers or institutions from GSLP eligibility, then OE should initiate additional study into the effects of these actions. For example, if an eligibility criterion is added for having reasonable probabilities of succeeding in the academic program entered, then OE should survey the literature and initiate research on predicting shortterm success in schools. If financial ability to repay a loan is added, then further research into earnings levels that are sufficient for repaying certain stred loans for particualr occupational categories or training would be useful. OE should initiate research into particular casual relationships identifled in this study since the survey was the first direct study of OSLP lenders and borrowers and therefore somewhat "pilot" Smaller specific examinations of some of the more in nature. interesting and critical relationships identified in this survey are probably worthwhile. For example, the level of activity in GSLP of a lender appears to be related to several aspects of default and lender operations. Further investigation with



lenders may be able to identify specific causes involved and point to specific actions OE might take with the very large or the very small GSLP lenders. Furthermore, the survey confirms the high default situations with vocational students and direct vocational lenders. If these groups are to remain eligible in the GSLP program, separate investigations as to the cause of their special problems should be beneficial.

APPENDIX A

DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY PROCEDURES

APPENDIX A

DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY PROCEDURES

In carrying out the actual surveys, RMC used the best practices in the field of social science surveys, plus special elaborations in response to some unusual features of this project. This appendix describes the procedures RMC used in the various tasks of sample selection, mailing, address checking, nonresponse follow-up, questionnaire editing, and data processing.

CLEARANCE AND MAILING PROCEDURES

On June 13, 1974, RMC was notified by the OE project officer that OMB approval had been received for the data collection instruments. The OMB approval number was given as 51-S74017, to be applicable to all three parts of the survey. This authorization included an expiration date of August 31, 1974. A few days prior to this notice, RMC was notified of approximately 18 minor changes to individual questions recommended by OMB. At that time, the three instruments were again reviewed by RMC. The changes suggested by OMB were incorporated into the questionnaires. Two questions were omitted and precoding was established for answers to all questions to facilitate editing when the questionnaires were returned from the field.

RMC then printed enough copies of the questionnaires for initial mailing and expected follow-up. Copies of the printed questionnaires were sent to the OE project officer for forwarding to OMB. In addition, copies were sent to DIL personnel for their reference and files. Arrangements were also made for printing outgoing mailing envelopes and postpaid business reply envelopes for returning the completed questionnaires to RMC.

As soon as the printed questionnaires were available, the mailing process was carried through to completion. Mailing labels for all lenders and borrowers with known addresses were prepared and affixed to the questionnaires and outgoing envelopes. Where lenders did not provide addresses, older addresses from OE central files were used. All of this was completed by the end of June. Within a few days after the mailout, a significant number of inquiring telephone calls and initial responses had been received by RMC.

Prior to and during the survey period, RMC continued its liaison and coordination with the GSLP program officers, the Division of Insured Loans (DIL). For example, on May 29, 1974, a meeting was held with Mr. James Moore, Director of DIL, and several of his staff. The occasion was used to brief DIL on the status of the survey and to informally convey information on borrower status that had already been received from lenders by RMC. Another purpose of this visit was to describe the selection criteria and interviewing procedures that RMC planned to use for the field visits to approximately 40 lenders. Several criteria for selection of these lenders were described and a specific request was made to DIL for nomination of lenders in several categories that might be visited by RMC. Arrangements were also made to obtain a copy of the recent 'mature' paper report from DIL so that lenders with high and low default rates could be examined. DIL agreed to provide the requested information after soliciting suggestions from internal staff and some regional offices. On July 1, 1974, RMC received these combined suggestions. In addition, RMC suggested to DIL that the HEW Regional Offices and State Guarantee Student Loan agencies be sent a copy of the letter and other information going to lending institutions so they would be familiar with the study and could answer questions that might come to them once the questionnaires were received. Sixty copies of this information package were provided to DIL in mid-June.

SAMPLING PROCEDURES

The actual sample selection process was carried out by RMC based on the sample design approved by OE (which is described in Chapter 1 of this report). This section describes these sampling procedures and the resultant sample for the reader who is interested in checking the methods or assessing the validity of the sample itself. Sampling procedures were carried out by computer whenever feasible.

As described earlier, the primary thrust during the initial file creation, and merging process was to establish the universe of lenders who had borrowers in repayment. Incidental to this, a universe of lenders who had borrowers in repayment status was also created. Each of the 14,000 records in this file represented a lender's name, lending type and address, as well as the number of borrowers in repayment status.

This lender file was sorted in ascending order by lender type and within type by ZIP Code and within ZIP Code by lender identification number. The last key served only to provide a predetermined sort order (so that if necessary we would redo the order). A skip interval of 1.416 was chosen to achieve the desired sample of 800 lenders. It turned out that only 784 lenders were actually selected, but the slight difference was unimportant to the sample design. Therefore, we felt it was better to proceed using the interval estimate (1,416) than to delay the sampling. The delay would have involved resorting the lender file by number of borrowers in repayment and running a special program to determine at exactly what point (skip interval) the number of lenders with more borrowers than the skip interval plus a sample of lenders (equal to the total number of borrowers represented by lenders) with less than the skip interval divided by the skip interval would equal 800.

Consideration was given to the question of including lenders with less than 10 borrowers in repayment in the survey. The number of such lenders selected by the sampling process was small (16), so they were kept in. This resulting group only accounted for 84 borrowers, slightly more than five per lender.

The borrower sampling was then carried out. Again, the file was sorted in ascending order by lender type, lender ZIP Code, and lender identification number. The borrower universe file was then compared with the lender sample universe. For each lender with less than 5,000 borrowers, exactly 10 borrowers (or all borrowers if the lender had less than 10 borrowers) were selected in a systematic fashion; that is, a random

start within the first decile was generated and then a borrower at every tenth succeeding percentile was chosen. For lenders with more than 5,000 borrowers, the initial borrower was chosen randomly from the first 500, and every 500th borrower after the first was selected.

For the large lenders selected with certainty, the universe and the sample are one and the same. Tables A-1 and A-2 show the distribution of the borrowers for the smaller noncertainty lenders by ZIP Code and lender type for the universe, and the sample weighted by the inverse of the probability of selection. The overall weighted sample closely approximates the universe, but those cells with small sizes have somewhat greater differences than the larger cells. The row percentages confirm the efficiency of the stratification.

A primary concern of the borrower sampling was to ensure that defaulters were represented adequately. Tables A-3 and A-4 display the distribution of the loan status of borrowers by the lender's ZIP Code area, both for the universe and for the sample. The proportion of borrowers with default codes in the sample (8.1 percent) is about the same as the proportion in the overall universe (8.4 percent). We do not, however, place much credence in this proportion as a measure of the program's default rate since there was a known lag in obtaining that status from the DIL Claims and Collections file, which at the time of our selection had 138,000 records. Several months later, the file contained over 215,000 records, which was probably the result of intensive efforts by the Office of Education to update its records. It is likely that, if our universe had been created four months later, it might well have shown 12 percent to 15 percent of its borrowers in default status.

RMC believes that the borrowers and lenders sample produced by these procedures is very suitable for assessing the status and problems of GSLP relative to repayment. Stratification by lender type ensured a good representation on that basis. Ordering lenders by ZIP Code before taking a systematic sample ensured a good geographic distribution, even though that variable was not expected to have any major effect. The distributions of the sample and universe presented in the previous two paragraphs show the

Table A-1 CONTROL TO BORROWERS FOR NONCERTAINTY LENDERS BASED UPON WEIGHTED SAMPLE

						•								۵.
	Jender Tyne	ť	,				Ž	National ZIP Code Areas	P Code Are	as			·	•
			0	-	2	3	-7	5 % .	9	, L	8	6	Total	Percent
.5	Unknown =		0	0	0	0	0 .	0	0	. 0	0	0	0	0
- P	National Banks =		49,560	62,304	21,240	31,152	42,480	58,056	56,640	31,152	25,498	33,984	412,056	42.9
St	State Banks (FDIC) =	7	41,064	35,400	16,992	28,320	49,560	70,800	49,560	24,072	18,408	11,328	345,504	36.0
 S	State Banks (non-FDIC) =	23	0	Q	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,416	1,416	00.1
	Federal Savings and Loan =	-4	5,664	4,248	2,832	8,495	4,248	4,248	7,080	2,832	1,416	7,080	48,144	02.0
St	State Savings and Loan =	5	8,496	2,832	0	0	2,832	1,416	2,832	2,832	1,416	7,080	29,736	03.1
F	Federal Credit Unions =	9	4,248	1,416	1,416	4,248	2,832	0	2,832	2,832	4,248	5,664	29,736	03.1
St	State Credit Unions =	7	1,416	0	0	4,248	2,832	1,416	4,248	, 1,416	1,416	1,416	18,408	01.9
<u>.</u>	Mutual Savings Banks =		28,320	15,576	0	0	0	°°	0	0	0	1,416	45,312	04.7
- E	Insurance Companies =	6	1,416	0	0	0	1,416	0 0	0	0	0	1,416	4,248	, 00.4
Aç Aç	Academic Institutions =	10	1,416	0	0	1,416	1,416	1,416	0		0	1,416	7,080	00.7
<u>-</u> 2	Direct State Lenders ==	=======================================	•	.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.	0	0,	0	0
<u>ಕ</u>	Other Classification ==	12	0	0	1,416	0	0	0	0	\$ 2,832	0	0	4,248	00.4
Λ	Vocational Education =	13	0	2,832	1,416	2,832	0	1,416		1,416	1,416	2,832	14,160	`01.5
	. Total		141,600	124,608	45,312	80,712	107,616	138,768	123,192	982*69.	53,808	75,048	960,048	100.0

DISTRIBUTION OF BORROWERS FOR NONCERTAINTY LENDERS BASED UPON THE TOTAL UNIVERSE Table A-2

ondr Tyne						. 2	National ZIP Code Areas	P Code Are	as	*			
		0	7	2	3	4	5	9	7	ω _τ	. 6	Total .	Percent
linknoen	0 =	'n	0	643	2	2	-	3	0	0	657	657	00.1
Marional Banks	#I	49,310	62,370	21,179	30,326	42,915	58,080	56,589	31,440	25,016	34,440	411,665	42.9
State Banks (FDIC)	, =	40, 398	36,711	15,717	29,122	49,646	69,849	49,765	24,135	18,235	11,306	344,884	35.9
State Banks (non-FDIC))IC) = 3	497	0	10	46	-	196	105	127	279	629	1,940	00.2
Federal Savings and Loan	Loan = 4	5,328	5,164	2,057	8,052	4,434	4,613	6,583	2,806	1,401	7,195	47,633	0.50
State Savings and Loan	oan = 5	0,095	2,085	. 20	358	2,783	1,619	2,567	3,322	1,074	7,448	30,371	03.2
Federal Credit Unions	9 = su	4,073	1,675	873	4,645	2,634	98/	2,104	2,929	4,056	6,549	30,324	03.2
State Credit Unions	7 = 7	915	135	ъ	4,289	2,267	2,293	3,250	1,523	1,465	1,084	17,230	01.8
Miltual Savings Banks	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	28,331	15,897	296	1	157	63	. 62.	0	0	1,089	46,201	8.40
Insurance Companies	6	785	7	0	, 364	1,034	365	485	.24	0	569	3,333	00.3
Academic Institutions	ms = 10	1,466	454	411	645	2,062	647	410	527	208	828	7,658	8.00
Direct State Lenders	S = 11	0	0	0	Ô	0	0.	0	0	0.	0	0	0
Other Classification	m = 12	2	365	316	860	, 6 ,	98	. 235	2,046	148	183	4,250	00.4
Vocational Education	m = 13	662	1,579	2,069	2,982	363	355	232	2,169	959	2,542	13,664	01.4
. Total		140,867	126,442	/43,900	-81,692	108,312	138,953	122,445	71,048	52,538	73,613	959,810	100.0
,			V										

Table A-3 BORROWERS IN REPAYMENT BASED UPON THE TOTAL UNIVERSE

Status		·		70	Nat	National ZIP Code Areas	gde Areas				
	0	1	2	3	4	5	9	7	8	6	Jotal
Graduated = G	88,087	75;393	25,249	30,147	46,637	42,193	65,551	. 38,059	15,794	41,987	467,297
Withdrawn = H	62,458	42,476	19,319	29,425	40,247	36,649	71,604	48,005	18,222	54,787	423,192
Paid in Full = L	10.249	5,674	,8,283	8,318	15,005	30,842	80,997	10,310	17,765	32,545	219,988
	5,820	3,148	17,875	26,276	21,953	61,637	27,501	29,198	37,930	80,885	314,923
Subtotal	169,314	124,891	70,726	94,166	123,842	171,321	245,653	125,572	89,711	210,204	1,425,400
Percent Nondefaults		78.1	93.0	93.6	- 96.2	95.8	96.2	85.7	96.3	87.1	91.1
Default = N	8 531	32,982	4,903	5,876	4,198	6,135	7,876	20,288	7,635	28,868	127,292
Default-Death = 0	45	. 97	34	39	79	141	168	33	150	408	1,182
Default-Death = P	113	225	15	31	42	98	53	. 16	57	120	758
Default-Bankruptcy = Q	108	238	57	102	110	193	141	120	78	241	1,388
Default-Disability = R	<u>a</u> 10	ó	1	3	1	33	rv.	H	3.	11	40
Default-Disability = S	'n	119	m ,	4	2	∞	0	23	9	, 20	70
Subtotal	8,805	33,570	5,013	6,055	4,415	995*9	8,243	20,466	626,7	29,668	130,730
Percent Defaults	4.9	21.0	0.0	0.9	3.4	3.7	3.2	14.0	.8.1	12.3	8 . 4
Errors	603	- 1,509	273	420	498	863	1,499	416	664	1,468	8,213
Grand Total	178,722	159,970	76,012	100,641	128,755	178,750	255,395	146,454	98,304	241,340	1,564,343

Table A-4
BORROWERS IN REPAYMENT BASED UPON THE UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE

	,		1				17.				
Status	, ,	\$	-	m) q	Nat io	National IIIP Code Areas	ode Areas				
	0	-	, 2	٠,	47	. 2	· 6	۲ -	8	6	Total
Graduated = G	552	464	141	200	331	268	384	. 169	96.	126	2,731
Withdrawn = H	405	257	128	175	275	254.	352	197	101	222	2,366
Paid in Full . = L	71	27	40	. 55	.71	189	235	65	84.	149	986
In Repayment = M	53	20	7.5	192	121	352-	128	129	170	310	1,550
Subtotal	1,081	768	384	623	798	1,063	1,099	260	451	807	7,633
Percent Nondefaults	73.8	78.2	97.5	94.7	95.8	96.4	96.2	84.8	70.7	86.7	91.5
Default = N	65	195	∞	31	. 29	32	39	<u>\$6</u>	43	117	. 648
Default-Death = 0	0	-	0	0	Α	т,	ਜ _{੍ਹ}	0.	-	s.	10
Default-Death = P	0	7	0	o .	0	0 ,	0	0.	0	0	7
Default-Bankruptcy = Q	0	٠,	, 0	2	7	o ,	0	2	o ,	0	~ .
Default-Disability = R	0`	0	0	0	, O	o,	0	0	0	o (3
Default-Disability = S	0	0	0		0 ,	0	0	0	0	0	'n
Subtotal	83	204	∞.	. 33	32	33	40	46	44	122	672
Percent Defaults	5.1	20.8	2.0	5.0	3.8	3.0	3.5	. 14.7	8.9	13.1	8.1
Errors	9	10	2	. 2	٤.	7	4	3	2	2	41
Grand Total	1,146	. 982	. 394	. 657	833	1,103	1,143	660	497	931	8,346

results. Although the questionable quality of data on defaulter status precluded stratification on that basis, the resulting sample included the desired number of defaulters (which increased later by about 25 percent when the lenders reported their latest loan status).

SURVEY FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURES

RMC recognized that, as in most mail surveys, obtaining an adequate response rate would be a problem, particularly since many defaulters avoided being located by loan collection staff. Therefore, extensive follow-up and address checking procedures were planned and carried out to maximize the survey responses.

The following summary outlines the survey procedures used by RMC Research Corporation for following up the various components of the lender survey conducted on behalf of the Guaranteed Student Loan Program. These are described in chronological order of occurrence.

- (1) In January 1974, RMC requested each of the approximately 800 lenders in the sample to verify the loan status and provide the most recent addresses for the sample borrowers from their institutions. All but approximately 20 of these sample lenders eventually provided this information after appropriate reminders and follow-up by RMC.
 - June, the original mailout to all qualified sample borrowers and lenders was completed using regular first class mail. Question-naires were sent to all borrowers for which OE or RMC had an address, even if the address was old or incomplete. Postpaid return envelopes were also enclosed to encourage response.
- (3) Starting at this point and continuing through successive follow-up activities, detailed records concerning all follow-up and response activities were kept on each sample member.
- For several lenders who expressed concern about the authority or necessity for the study, RMC forwarded letters to the Office of Education so that a special letter requesting cooperation could be sent.
- (5) A reminder letter was sent to nonrespondent <u>lenders</u>, asking their cooperation in promptly returning the completed questionnaires.

- (6) A large number of reminder phone calls was made to nonresponding lenders (particularly the larger lenders), asking them to respond to the survey. In many cases, a duplicate copy of the questionnaire was sent since they had misplaced the original.
- (7) Mailgrams were sent to the remaining <u>lender</u> nonrespondents as a final reminder.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESPONSES

RMC and OE agreed early in the study to assure survey respondents that their responses would be held confidential. In the words of the questionnaire itself:

Your answers will be held in full confidence. RMC will not make your questionnaire available to OE and will not report individual responses—it is the sum of all responses which is important to the completion of our study. This sample survey is not part of any financial auditing or claim collection procedure. Your identification will only be utilized internally within RMC to coordinate data collection and define questionnaire follow-up needs.

It was believed that this assurance might help significantly in getting useful responses, particularly about individual borrowers.

Of course, once this was promised, RMC established procedures to be sure it could fulfill that promise. Internal physical security was maintained by establishing special lockable workrooms and file cabinets for the completed questionnaires. Although the data tapes RMC created included respondent names and Social Security numbers for indexing and linking purposes, the final data file provided to OE at the end of the contract replaced that identification data with random code numbers.

A related concern during the study design phase centered around whether the lenders would provide financial and other data on sample borrowers or whether they would claim that the information was confidential. The Office of the Legal Counsel of HEW confirmed that OE had the right to request the data since it was guaranteeing the loans and RMC was acting as an agent of OE. Only a few lenders raised this issue during the actual study. In most cases, a follow-up letter from OE backing up RMC's request was sufficient to obtain a response. Only one lender (a large one in Pennsylvania) insisted on removing the names of the borrowers from the survey forms before



returning them to RMC. While it is possible that some of the lenders that never responded at all had this concern, all the reasons that were given to RMC for nonresponse related to lack of time or staff to do the work.

DATA EDITING AND PROCESSING PROCEDURES

The completed survey questionnaires concerning both lenders and borrowers were carefully controlled and edited by RMC to ensure maximum quality and use of the available data. Receipt control was maintained through reference against a previously prepared control log of all individuals or institutions covered by questionnaires. Manual editing of each survey form included the coding of answers so that keypunching could be done directly from that form. Coding categories were established and used for open-ended questions based on examination of a large number of actual answers.

All answers for all responses were also edited by computer before tabulations or other analyses were prepared. The following paragraphs discuss the objectives and procedures of RMC's editing activities in the context of data quality.

In survey research, there are two levels of data validity one can attempt to achieve: first, to represent the information in the survey instrument accurately in the computer storage medium; second, to evaluate the internal consistency of the survey instrument to identify illogical patterns. The bulk of the editing procedures used in this survey were directed toward the first of these goals.

There are basically three kinds of errors that appear in the first level of data validation: (1) the respondent answered a question absurdly; (2) the person performing manual editing made an incorrect adjustment; and (3) the person (keypuncher) who translated from the survey medium to the input computer medium made an error. RMC's initial editing algorithm was directed primarily to the first and last cases. The algorithm amounted to a field-by-field check of the coded responses against the allowable responses, a display of all errors, and recoding of two kinds of nonresponses. The algorithm can pick up absurd responses and is capable of identifying certain typical keypunch errors, such as "getting a column off" (since eventually a column will almost certainly be out of range). However, it is helpless against certain errors such as punching an incorrect code that is also a valid code.

The operational procedure for each of the questionnaires was: (1) keypunch the questionnaires in batches; (2) edit in batches, merging the edited
batch with the previously edited batches; (3) examine the edit output, correct the errors, and resubmit with the next batch; (4) run an SPSS marginal
analysis of the data to identify the need for further editing; and (5) run
an edit-all on the survey data base, recoding out-of-range answers as invalid
responses. (In all cases, the out-of-range condition resulted in less
than 0.5 percent of the responses being recoded as invalid for any question.)

The second level of data validation was not attempted in terms of the computer editing effort. The modus operandi in such an effort would be to identify logical relationships among the data that preclude certain response patterns from occurring. When such a pattern occurs, there are several options:

(1) choosing an item to control and force the other responses to be consistent; (2) considering all of the answers undependable and therefore invalid; (3) returning to the survey respondent to validate the data; or

(4) doing nothing further. In addition, the identification, programming, and resolution of these error types are limited by the resources available to examine them.

As a practical matter, RMC chose option 4. There is clearly no basis for option 1, except in the case of "skip patterns," where a respondent was instructed to skip a question but did not. However, in this case, the proper cross-tabulations will provide the desired marginals for the question that should have been skipped. Option 2 was not used because we felt that the loss of information through recoding would be more harmful than the inconsistencies, which may, in fact, have been more apparent than real. Option 3 was rejected because of the obligation to place a minimal administrative burden on the lenders in the sample. In addition, any attempt to contact the affected borrowers would have caused severe delays in the study. Even though this implied ignoring the consistency of the data as an editing matter, RMC explored this consistency in the analysis, making adjustments wherever necessary.

^{1:} A computer program package was used called Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

APPENDIX B

ANSWERS TO LENDER SURVEY ABOUT BORROWERS

This appendix presents a direct tabulation of answers provided by lenders in response to survey questions about specified GSLP borrowers in the RMC sample. The exact form of the questions is reproduced along with the number of responses received and the percent distribution, where meaningful. Responses have been weighted to reflect the probabilities used in the sample selection.

GSLP Lender ID Number

Social Security Number (as shown on listing)

Student's Name (last name first)

. Please indicate the status of this borrower's loan as of December 31, 1973. (Mark only one)

	Number	Percen
Paid in full by horrower	1,496	32.4
Being repaid on schedule	1,900	41.2
Payment was started, but deferral for later repayment has been authorized	28	0.6
In Arrears:		
Claim filed with guaranteeing agency,		
awaiting repayment	64	1.4
Claim not yet filed with guaranteeing agency	168	3.6
Repaid by Guaranteeing Agency:	a	
Due to borrower bankruptcy	18	0.4
Due to horrower death or disability	32	0.7
Due to horrower default	530	11.5
Repaid by Other Party (specify):	26	0.6

*Not Yet Liable for Repayment: Still in school or grace period Deferred from start of repayment	164	3.5 0.4
*Other Boan Status: Loan never made to this borrower Loan made but cancelled Loan status unknown (give reason	29 45 96	0.6 1.0 2.1

*If loan is "Not Yet Liable For Repayment" or falls within "Other Loan Status," do not complete the remainder of this questionnaire.

Missing cases = 286

If any of the following questions do not apply to this borrower, please write 'N/A" beside that question.

 Please indicate the number of GSLP loans that you are aware this borrower holds: , ,

			¥
	Loans	Number	Percent
	0	414	10.9
	1	,2,243	58.8
	2	631	11.5
	2 3	293	7.7
	4	154	-4.0
	5	5.3	1.4
•	6	19	.5
	7	4	.1
	8	ř	.0+
	- 9	0	0 , 1
	10	. 1	1 '41

Mean = 1.43 Standard Deviation = 1.11 Missing cases = 1,087 (22.2%)

What is the total_dollar amount of these GSLP loans?

Average_dollar amount \$1,483.11 Standard error = \$18.26 Missing cases = 1,253 (25.6%)

3. How many of this borrower's GSLP loans originated at another lending institution and were transferred to you?

Number of these transferred loans serviced by your institution (If none, write "0"):

Loans	Number	Percent
. 0	3,551	97
1	93	2.5
2	11	. 3.
3	7 1 1	.05
4 .	2	.1
5	0	0
.6	. 0	. 0
7 1	♥ ` 1	. 09

Missing cases = 1,304

Number of these transferred loans serviced by another institution (If none, write "0"):

•		Loans	Number	Percent
i		0	3,588	99.7
•		1	8	. 2
		2 0	1	.1
Miss	ing c	ases $= 1,2$	43	

4. How many of this borrower's GSLP loans originated at your institution? (If none, write "0" and go to Q. 7)

	٠ ،	· /	-4
	Loans	Number	Percent
	0	388	9.6
	1	2,424	59.6
	. 2	689	16.9
	. 2 3	318	7.8
	4	167	4.1
*	5	· 53	1.3
~	5 6	17	•4
٠,	. 7	. 5	. 1
	8 .	. 3	. 1
	9	1	.05

Missing cases = 837

5. Was this borrower already a customer when he was first issued a GSLP loan by your institution?

		Number	Percent
Yes		1,406	49.3
No	·	1,448	50.7
Cannot	Determine	-	-

Missing cases = 2,048

6. Was any other member of the student's family doing business with you regularly at the time when the borrower was first issued a GSLP loan by your institution?

Number	Percent
1,521	66.7
758	33.3
	•
-	-
	1,521

Missing cases = 2,653

If YES, what was the nature of that relationship? (mark only one)

•	Number	Percent		
Through a business	38	2.6		
Personal account only	1,244	83.8		
Both business and personal account	203	13.7		
Cannot determine	-	-		

Missing cases = 3,417

	` `
l e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	
.7. Does the borrower now have an account with you other	11. If repayment terms were not negotiated, explain
than the GSLP loan?'	why .
Number Percent , , , ,	
f the commence of the commence	
Yes 27.4 «	
No 2,054 72.6	
Don't know	12. Was any of the loan repaid by the horrower?
	Number Percent
Missing cases = 2,072	Number rescont
	Yes 2.676 74.4
	No (CO TO Q. 16) 922 - 25.6
	l ma
8. Did the borrower finish the program in which he	 Did the borrower make a lump-sum payment or any
	pre-payments?
was enrolled in the school he attended with his	
last (or only) GSLP loan?	<u>Number</u> <u>Percent</u>
Number Percent	, Yes 809 24.4
, value! Fercent	
Yes 1.989 72.2	No (CO TO Q. 14) 2,499 75.6
No 766 37.8	- a sima
Don't know	If YES, indicate date(s) and amount
DON C MICHAEL	lump-sum payment or the pre-payment(s)
Missing cases = 2,147	0 4
	Date(s) \$ Amount(s)
	705 (average)
4.	
9. What methods were used by lender in attempting	
to contact the horrower in order to "initially"	
	14. How many monthly payments had the borrower made
establish or negotiate repayment terms? In-	as of December 31, 1973?
dicate the number of times each method was	,
used by marking one box on each horizontal line.	, Monthly Payments
More Than	15. When was the last monthly payment made (up to
	December 31, 1973)?
None Once 2-3 Times 3 Times No. Percent No. Percent No. Percent No. Percent	, ,
	, 19
telegrams to	
borrower 413 11,7 1,535 43.4 1,023 28.9 568 16.0	•
Letters or	16. Has there been any modification or extension of
telegrams to	repayment terms for this borrower's GSLP loan?
school (s) 1.770 80.9 261 11.9 140 6.4 19 0.9	(This question refers to such practices as re-
Telephone	financing of learns it describes to such practices as re-
calls to	financing of loans; it does not refer to autho-
borrower 1,487 64.0 448 19.3 247 10.6 143 6.1	rized deferrals.)
Communica	Number Percent
-tion with	Yes 173 4.6'
borrower's	. No 3.631 95.4
family [1,523 67.3 469 20.7 178 7.9 95 4.2	
Outside	17a. Was this student ever granted a deferral from 🦠 🤭
assistance	repayment?
Federal	Number Percent
Govt', 1,904 90.1 170 8.0 29 144 10 0.5	Number Fercent
State or 😻	Yes 280 7.4
private	✓ No (GO TO, Q. 18) 3,513 92.6
agency 1,937 93.0 82 3.9 50 2.4 14 0.7	
	17b. If YES, when did this deferral begin?
Other	
(specify): 1,106 92.0 76 6.4 15 1.2 5 0.4	(Month)19
l de la companya de l	When did (or will) this deferral end?
	·
, *	(Month)19
10. Were repayment terms established or negotiated with	
this horrower?	17c. What was the major reason for the deferral?
	(Mark only one)
Number Percent	Number Percent
Yes 3,371 83.3	Borrower went on to further
No (GO TO Q. 11) 676 16.7	schooling or training 112 38.3
	Borrower entered public
₹ If YES:	service (Peace Corps or VISTA) 13 '4.5
	Borrower entered military
a. On what date was the modified promissory note signed?	
	service 86 29.4
	Borrower had illness or
b. What were the repayment terms?	temporary disability 6 2.2
	Borrower had financial
Monthly payment 37 (average)	difficulties 57 19.4
Length of repayment	Other (please specify): 18 6.3
period (in months) 48 (average)	
Date first payment was due , 19	Reason unknown or unrecorded ·
, 1000	
	1
	18. Has the borrower ever been late in his repayments?
1 by	
	Number Percent
	Yes 1,226 34.5
	No (GO TO'Q. 19) 2,325 65.5
	70.770
1	If YES, how many late payments has he made?
	Late Payments
	Date rayments
I a h	The state of the s
	`
\ .	

19. Has borrower defaulted on repayment?

Yes 666. 17.9 No (CO TO Q.. 21) 3,053 82.1

20. Did the lender contact or attempt to contact the borrower regarding the default?

	Number	Percent
Yes No (GO TO Q. 21) Information Not	. 668 . 267	, 66.8, 26.7
Available (GO TO Q. 21) 65	6.5

If YES, what methods were used to contact or attempt to contact the borrower regarding the default? (Indicate the number of times each method was used by marking one box on each horizontal line.)

	١.		1 , 1		2 7 111		More Than	
,		lone		Once		Times		Times
5	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Letters or			١.	1	1			
telegrams to borrower	44			م د			l '	^
	44	6.2	62	8.5	189	26.2	425	59.1
Letters or			ļ			•		
telegrams to	202		۱.,,					
school(s)	292	60.5	124	25.6	51	10.5	17	.3.4
Telephone.		•	1	·			ľ	, ,
calls to	1		٠.	l	٠			
, borrower	146	25.0	86	14.7	145	24.8	207	35.5
Communica-		•						
ortion with	6			•				
borrower's								
_family	171	33.6	121	23.8	104	20.5	112	22.1
Outside		,		,				
assistance	-	•	,	.				·
Federa <u>l</u>			`		ŀ		Į į	
Govt	211	41.2	237	46.4	38	7.5	25	\4. 9
State or		,		1.		-	Ĺ	
private ·				26			1	
agency	30đ	75.9	43	10.9	38	9.5	15	3.7
Other		3	,	 1 , -	~	14		·
(specify):	155	75.5	-34	16.7	6	3.1	10	4.6
- ^					•			

21. If borrower has ever been late in making payments, or if we has fallen behind or defaulted, is there anything in your experience with this borrower that would explain the default (or falling behind)?

 Yes
 324
 19.8

 No
 1,312
 80.2

 Not Applicable

If YES, please explain:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM DIRECTLY TO THE SURVEY CONTRACTOR;
RMC RESEARCH CORPORATION, 7910 WOODMONT AVENUE, BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

, APPENDIX C

ANSWERS TO LENDER SURVEY ABOUT GSLP

This appendix presents a tabulation of answers provided by lenders in response to survey questions. The exact form of each question is presented along with the number of responses represented or the mean value of the numerical answers. The data shown have been inflated using sampling probabilities and therefore represent estimates for the universe of GSLP lenders having borrowers in repayment. No nonresponse or other adjustments have been made on the data presented in this appendix.



Dear Sir:

Under contract from the U.S. Office of Education, RMC Research is conducting a survey of a sample of lending institutions participating in the Guaranteed Student Loan Program (GSLP). In April your institution received a letter from the Office of Education describing this survey and requesting current addresses for several GSLP borrowers from your institution as well as your cooperation in completing a questionnaire covering GSLP activities in your institution. As that letter described, the purpose of this survey is to obtain lender input to the policy planning process, to obtain data needed by OE to better forecast cash flow, and to further investigate borrower defaults. Your institution is one of 800 lenders selected at random for this survey.

We would therefore appreciate your completing the attached questionnaire as soon as possible and returning it to RMC Research in the envelope provided. The questionnaire should be completed by the Senior Loan Officer (or other senior officer) having responsibility for the Guaranteed Student Loan Program, although we recognize that the help of other staff may be needed for certain data. This questionnaire is addressed to the selected lenders identified as holders of existing GSLP loans. If this organization is part of a larger organization (e.g., a branch bank), the answers to some questions may require communication with other organizational units and we would appreciate your cooperation in this respect. Part I of the questionnaire concerns overall lender experience and policies, while Part II requests supplemental data on the borrowers in the sample from your institution. Although it was necessary to cover several areas with the attached questions, we hope your organization will provide the most complete data your files permit so as to facilitate the development of improved program operations and procedures.

Your answers will be held in full confidence. RMC will not make your questionnaire available to OE and will not report individual responses—it is the sum of all responses which is important to the completion of our study. This sample survey is not part of any financial auditing or claim collection procedures. Your identification will only be utilized internally within RMC to coordinate data collection and define questionnaire follow-up needs. It is also important that you answer the questions directly rather than just repeating what you think we want to hear.

Since your help is indispensable to the successful conduct of this study, we would appreciate your prompt attention in completing this questionnaire. If necessary, further information can be obtained from Dr. Kenneth Gordon, at (301) 656-2700.

RMC Research Corporation

7910 Woodmont Avenue Bethesda, Maryland 20014 • Telephone: (301) 656-2700



•	• • •		some responses need f	
	•		Name:	 ·
		* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	Telephone No.:	 ·
•			Lending Institution:	
PART I:	AGGREGATE	LENDER EXPERIENCES	AND POLICIES	

Section A. AGGREGATED STATISTICAL DATA

The questions of this section describe several aspects of your institution's operations that are needed to supplement existing data so that the Guaranteed Student Loan Program (GSLP) can be compared across the various types of lenders. While we recognize some lenders' records may be organized in slightly different ways, we would appreciate your best efforts to provide as much of the requested data as possible. If barriers exist, please provide the closest data possible and explain differences in the margin.

Please answer the following questions for the lending unit (e.g., branch, headquarters, etc.) which deals directly with the federal, state, or private guarantee agency and is identified by the lender identification number to which this questionnaire was addressed.

Specify the type of lending unit indicated by this lender identification

<u> </u>	0	
1909	28.4	Headquarters with decentralized units.
356	5.3	Branch of a larger lending organization *
3807	56.7	Independent, unaffiliated organization
644	.9.6	Other (specify):

number:

Note that throughout the questionnaire we are requesting that your responses include data on the United Student Aid Fund (U.S.A.F.), if applicable.

If any of the questions are not applicable, indicate "N/A" beside the questions.

1. Please indicate your institution's total assets at the end of calendar year 1973, the total dollar amount of your loan portfolio, and the amount you held in GSLP loans at that time:

Total Assets Total Dollar Amount of Loans Dollar Amount of GSLP Loans Principal Only \$ 1,808,611 \$ 1,062,812 \$ 702,118 (Dollars Only)

2. Indicate the number of GSLP borrowers and loans, and the total dollar disbursements made for GSLP loans during the last three calendar years:

	Number of Individual Borrowers	Number of Loans (if different)	Total Dollar Disbursements	No Łoans Granted
1971 1972 1973	122	219 203 231	183,104 190,337 204,484 (Dollars Only)	$\frac{1.2}{1.6}$



Please supply the following data for all GSLP loans outstanding as of December 31, 1973. (If none in a category, write "0.") 3.

•						
	Loar a State	Loans Guaranteed by State or Private Agency	d by Agency	. Los the Fe	Loans Insured by the Federal Government	yy ment
Status of Loan (as of Dec. 31, 1973)	Number of Students	Number of Loans	Total Original Amount Disbursed (dollars only)	Number of Students	© Number of Loans	Total Original Amount Disbursed (dollars only)
Not yet liable for Tepayment (in school, in grace period, in authorized deferral period, etc.)	94	<u> </u>	221,542	137.	530	288,733
Being repaid by borrower	(9-14)	(15–20)	(21-28) 184,815	(29–34)	(35–40)	(4I-48) 186,111
In arrears (have not made initial or later payment as obligated)	5.5	7.2	. 22,668	14.5	. 23.9	25,312
durrently in default (filed for claim to State or Private Agency or Federal Government, but not yet repaid)	on the second	1.4	7,721	·	11.2	9,259

Numbers appearing in parentheses are keypunch instructions and should be ignored by respondent.

4. If/your records do not show the detail required in Question 3, could you provide the following aggregated figures for GSLP loans you held at the end of 1973?

Number of students: $\frac{3,900}{6,500}$

5. As of December 31, 1973, what was the total outstanding amount of unpaid GSLP loans? (Dollars only. If none in a category, write "0.")

	State or Private Guaranteed Loans	Federally Insured Loans
Principal (if available) Interest (if available) Total	\$4,596,900 \$ 8,369	\$36,348

Section B. DEFAULT EXPERIENCE

We would like to ask you about your experience with borrowers who defaulted on their Guaranteed Student Loans in calendar year 1973.

Please indicate here if you had any defaults on GSLP loans during calendar year 1973:

<u>.</u> #	3/6	l	4-0
2755	41.9	Yes	(If your answer is 'Yes," proceed to Question 6)
3804	5/.9	NO	(If your answer is "No," do not complete this section.
			Please skip to Section C, Question 9.)

We request that your responses include data on the United Student Aid Fund (U.S.A.F.), if applicable.

If any of the questions are not applicable, indicate 'N/A" beside the questions.





6. For calendar year 1973, please give aggregate figures on all the GSLP loans on which you filed a claim for repayment from a guarantee agency because of borrower default, whether repaid in 1973 or not. (If none, in a category, write "0.")

	Number of Borrowers Defaulting	Total , Dollar Amount
Guarantor was a State or Private Agency Guarantor was the Federal	19.136	\$
Government	17.9	\$ (Dollars Only)

7. If you had defaulted GSLP loans against which you filed claims during 1973, how long did you usually have to wait between making the claim and actually receiving payment from the guarantee agency? We would like to know the average time you had to wait, and about how big the range is around this average.

For Loans Guaranteed by a State or Private Agency:

The average waiting period is $\frac{8.490}{(21-22)}$ weeks,

and usually falls between 6.086 and 9.645 weeks.

For Loans Insured by the Federal Government:

The average waiting period is $\frac{14.377}{(27-28)}$ weeks,

and usually falls between 12.083 and 17.481 weeks.

8. Of the GSLP default claims you filed during 1973, about what percentage were returned to you with requests for further documentation? (If none in a category, write "0.")

Of those claims filed with a State or Private Guarantee Agency 2.06% were returned for further documentation. (33-35)

Of those claims filed with the U.S.
Office of Education 7.138% were returned for further documentation.
(36-38)

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Section C. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND BURDEN

To help us investigate the administrative burden which the Guaranteed Student Loan Program places on lending institutions, please answer the following questions.

We request that your responses include data on the United Student Aid Fund (U.S.A.F.), if applicable.

If any questions are not applicable, indicate "N/A" beside the questions.

9. What kinds of appraisals do you make (financial or otherwise) of an applicant for a GSLP loan when deciding to approve or reject the loan? (Mark one box on each horizontal line.)

. • •			Rarely or
Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
6030	90	306	-4 120
3526	1321	1016 15.1%	1.8% 856 12.7%
1094	760	2078	2654
16.6%	11.5%	31.6%	40.3%
5329	549 °	377	462
19.3%	8.2%	5.6%	6.9%
1220	672	1427	3304
18.4%	10.1%	21.6%	49.9%
668	556	1668	3716
10.1%	8.4%	25.3%	56.2%
370	68	11	15
79.7%	14.7%	2.5%	3.2%
	-17 6030 92.1% 3526 52.5% 1094 16.6% 5329 19.3% 1220 18.4% 668 10.1% 370	-1	-1 -2 -3 6030 90 306 92.1% 1.4% 4.7% 3526 1321 1016 52.5% 19.7% 15.1% 1094 760 2078 16.6% 11.5% 31.6% 5329 549 377 19.3% 8.2% 5.6% 1220 672 1427 18.4% 10.1% 21.6% 668 556 1668 10.1% 8.4% 25.3% 370 63 11

159



10. If the GSLP Program were to be operated according to your views of what constitutes a sound educational loan program, how important would you consider the following factors in approving GSLP loans? (Mark one box on each horizontal line.)

		Very mportant.	Somewhat Important -2	- Not Important	
	Applicant should be attending a degree- granting institution (not a vocation al or specialized training institute).	454 ~ 6.7%	1973 23.9%	4396 64.4%	•
	Applicant should <u>not</u> be a first-year student	1211 . 17.8%	1246 18.3%	4350 63.9%	
p	Applicant or his family should be a customer of the lending institution	4793 . 70.2%	1566 22.9%	467 6.8%	
	Applicant should not receive more for a subsidized loan than the amount of financial need certified by his school	4769 70.0%	1688 24.8%	358 5,2%	
	Applicant should be attending particular schools in your local operating area.		1088 15.9%	5446 79.5%	
	Applicant should show a strong academic record	. 14.4%	4395 64.6%	1424 20.9%	
	Applicant's financial situation should indicate low probability of default	3220 . . 47.0% <	2350 34.3%	1285 18.7%	
	Applicant should not have too many other debts	5320 77.5%	1364 19.9%	180 2.6%	
	Minority groups should be favored over others	15 0.2%	559 8.2%	6252 91.6%	
	Particular age groups should be excluded	114 1.7%	428 6.3%	6301 92.1%	
	Other (specify):	160 81.9%	32 16.5%	3 1.6%	

When you find it difficult to locate a borrower of a GSLP loan whose loan(s) has come due, how many times would you estimate that you use the following methods to try to contact him before filing a default claim? (Mark one box on each horizontal line.)

box on each norizontal line.)	•	Two or	More Than	Not
	1	Three	Three	at
	Once	Times	Times	<u>A11</u>
	# %	# %	# %	# %
Telephone calls	518- 8.3	2071-33.3	3574-57.6	47- 0.7
Letters, telegrams, or mailgrams\	272- 4.3	2778-44.3	3216-51.3	4- 0.1
Private skip-trace service or			,	Ì
credit bureau	2300-38.7	258- 4.3	222- 3.7	3165-53.2
U.S. Office of Education Pre-Claims			ļ	}
Assistance Program (mailgram service)	2036-35.5	1146-20.0	311- 5.4	2236-39.0
Communication with borrower's relatives		1	2415-39.4	38-06
Communication with borrower's school(s)			532- 9.1	
Other (specify):		134-34.6		
Other (Specify):	\\	-3, 34,0	03 10.4	
	\			

Markers in parentheses are keypunch instructions and should be ignored by respondent.

12. We would like to have your best estimate of how the administrative costs of CSLP loans compare to your experience with alternate loans to which you might commit your funds (such as consumer installment loans or other short-term uses), on the basis of the cost per loan. (Mark one box on each horizontal line.)

				· · · · · ·	
	do.	The Cost	of a GSLP	Loan is:	
For the Following Elements:	Very Much Lower		About the Same	Somewhat Higher -4	Very Much Higher -5
Placing (acquiring the loan)	221-3.5%	728-11.4%	2837, 44.5%	1491-23.4%	1105-17.3%
Establishing repayment terms	176-27%	174-2.7%	1609-25.1%	3018-47.1%	1435-22.4%
Normal processing of loans during repayment	2 0.0%	55 0.9%	3470 、 54 ₃ 1%	2138 .33.3%	746` 11.6% 🏲
Maintenance of Special Records (meeting reporting requirements, interest billing, etc.)	31 0.5%	120 1.9%	946 14.7%		3516 54.7%
Searching for defaulters	270-4.3%	443-7.1%	2911-46.9%	1375-22.2%	1201-19.4%
Other important cost elements (please specify): a.	41 5.8% ·		35 4.9%	121 17.1%	512 72.2%
b	11-4.4%	1-0.6%	14-5.4%	23-9.2%	203-80.4%
c			4 .	3-15.7%	16-84.3%

13. Of the total costs you incur for administering GSLP loans, please estimate what percentage (on the average) of these costs can be attributed to the following factors. (If none in a category, write "0.")

Placing (acquiring the loan)	16.9 %
Establishing repayment terms	<u>£6.7</u> %
Normal processing of loans during repayment	19.0 %
Maintenance of Special Records (meeting reporting requirements, interest billing, etc.)	29.4 %
Searching for defaulters	9.8 %
Establishing claims on defaults	
Other important cost elements (please specify):	
	11,.3
	2.4 %
	1.9 %
	1 = 100%

14. Could you give your best estimate of how much time your personnel spent during an average month in calendar year 1973 handling all aspects of GSLP loans? Please estimate total man-hours per month for the personnel types below. (If none in a category, write "0.")

Officers
Supervisors
Tellers, clerks, and other support personnel

15. Does your institution have financial <u>ceilings</u> on your total participation in the GSLP program? (Mark 'Yes' or ''No' for each.)

Yes	No	<u>A</u>	mount (if applicable)
980 (18.3%)	4368	Dollar limit	\$ <u>501,747</u>
ex241	4217	% of loan portfolio	<u>13.3</u> %
1180	(94.6%)	Other limit (describe):	
(99.7%)	(0.3%)	390 - 100%	111,504
	,	•	j · · · ?

16. In <u>normal</u> situations, how frequently do you use the following procedures to <u>establish</u> repayment terms for borrowers in the GSLP program? This question does <u>not</u> refer to procedures used for locating and collecting from defaulters once repayment terms have been established. (Mark one box on each horizontal line.)

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	•	p *	,	
	Always.	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
Di.		'		
Face-to-face meeting with borrower.	2209-33.4%	2739-41.4%	1623-24.5%	497%
Telephone contact with borrower	546- 8.4%	2889-44.6%	2598-40.1%	449- 6.9%
Mail correspondence with borrower Working through a state guarantee	2007-30.7%	2668-40.9%	1619-24.8%	236- 3.6%
agency	319- 5.2%	106- 1.7%	1048-17.2%	4636-75.9%
Working through another third party	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ष		
(specify):	373- 6.1%	366- 6.0%	2751-44.8%	2654-43.2%
Other (specify):				, .
The state of the s	62-36.3%	52-30.4%	48-28.4%	8- 4.9%
	<u> </u>	, ,	<u> </u>	

17. Please indicate which of the following best describes your institution.
(Mark only one.)

1 %
259-3.8 We have a specific department that handles nothing but
GSLP loans

4714-68.8 Within one of our departments we have personnel who are assigned to GSLP loans

1879-27.4 Other (please explain):

18. How would you rate the profitability of GSLP loans compared to your overall installment loan portfolio? If you do not have an installment loan portfolio, rate the profitability of GSLP loans compared to other uses to which you put your money. (Mark only one.)

19. If you stated in Question 18 that in your experience the profitability of GSLP loans is "very much lower" or "somewhat lower" compared to your overall installment loan portfolio, how would you rate the importance of the following factors in accounting for this? (Mark one box on each horizontal line.)

•	*	•	6
	Very	Somewhat ^o	Not
· · ·	Important		Important
Lower interest rate (including special	# %	* # %	# %
allowances)	4374-83.4	4 839-16-0	29- 0.5
Higher acquisition or placement costs	1046-20.4	4 2125-41.4	1968-38.3
Costs of locating borrower at repayment			*
time	1623-30.9	2088-39.8	1538-29.3
Delays when filing claim for default	1655-34.8	8 1404-29.5	1701-35.7
Excessive record-keeping and reporting			• •
to guarantee agency	3130-59.	1 1932–36.5	233- 4.4
Other (specify):			.**
	271-79.7	69-20.3	
			
	49-48.6	52-51.4	
•			



Section D. LENDER PARTICIPATION IN THE GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN, PROGRAM

The following questions explore the influence of various factors on the actual potential participation of a lending institution in the GSLP program.

We request that your responses include data on the United Student Aid Fund (U.S.A.F.), if applicable.

If any of the questions are not applicable, indicate "N/A" beside the questions.

20. Of the various reasons that lead your institution to continue participation in the GSLP program, please indicate the importance your institution attaches to the following commonly-mentioned reasons. (Mark one box on each horizontal line.)

	/ N	Very	Somewhat	Not
	<u>Imp</u>	ortant	Important	
455		# 1 %	# 8	# 8
(1)	The profitability of the loans	641-10.2	2464-39.0	3207-50.6
(2)	A service to family members of existing	K		* .
	customers5	626-87.1	653-10.1	181- 2.8
· ₄ (·3)	As access to potential future			
1.	customers2	167-33.9	3198-50.0	1030-16.1
\(4)	Service to clients of an affiliated			. 1
100	educational institution	312- 5.0	805-13.0	5071-81.9
(5)	General assistance to the community in	,		
(3)	assisting educational attendance and			'
	financing	147-48:9	2204-34.2	1089-16.9
(6)			·	
-	encouragement for participation	164- 2.7	2139-35.3	3760-62.0
(7)		,		
(7)	Other (specify):		,	,
	(1)	128-15.2	714-84.8	
	ge	52~86.5	8-13.5	
	V	22 90.3	0 13.3	
1	·			l \ .

21. Of the reasons mentioned in Question 20, which are the two most important reasons for the participation of your institution?

a. 2-68%, 4-15%, 5-8.5%, 3-3.8%, 1-3%

b. 5-47%, 3-24%, 7-13%, 2-10%, 1-3.5%

Numbers in parentheses are keypunch instructions and should be ignored by respondent.

22a. Are there conditions (such as changes in operating procedures of the GSLP program, the money market, interest rates for GSLP loans, terms of repayment, etc.) which would encourage your institution to increase the level of its current financial participation in the GSLP program substantially?

1880-29.6% Yes: 4470-70.4% , No (Go to Q. 23)

22b. If "Yes," please describe:

23. How would you characterize your institution's short-range expectations with regard to your level of participation in the GSLP program? (Mark only one.)

# .	9/	
330	4.9	We plan to cease new lending under the GSLP program
361	5.3	We plan to reduce lending under this program by 21% or more
69	1.0	We plan to reduce lending under this program by 10% to 20%
2777	41.0	We plan to continue our level of participation at about current level (plus or minus 10%) (Go to Q. 26a)
35	0.3	We plan to increase lending under this program by 10% to 20%
131	1.9	We plan to increase lending under this program by 21% or more
2523	37.3	Our participation will depend on customer demand (Go to Q. 26a)
411	6.1	Other (explain):

24. If you indicated in Question 23 that you are expecting an increase or a decrease of 10% or more in your participation in the GSLP program, would that be in: (Mark only one:).

529 44.9 Total dollars committed to GSLP loans
52 4.4 Dollars for GSLP loans as percentage of your installment loan portfolio
521 44.3 Both total dollars and percentage of installment loan portfolio
76 6.5 Other (specify):

25. If you indicated in Question 23 that you are expecting an increase or a decrease of 10% or more in your participation in the GSLP program, could you explain briefly the reasons for the change?

26a. Criticisms of the GSLP program have suggested several aspects of it that might act to discourage a lender from continuing or increasing participation. Can you give your institution's evaluations of the following factors that might discourage its participation? (Mark one box on each horizontal line.)

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
(1) Low interest rates compared to com-	# %	# %	# %
peting use of funds	3725-56.0	2596-39.0	336- 5.0
(2) Low total revenue	2668-40.9	2479-38.0	1369-21.0
(3) High default or claim rate	1780-30.7	2425-41.9	1588-27.4
(4) Long gepayment period	3318-49.9	1795-27.0	1537-23.1
(5) High cost of processing payments	1551-23.5	2380-36.0	2673-40.5
(6) High total cost of GSLP loans	2619-40.3	2016-31.1	1857-28.6
(7) Difficulty locating the borrowers at repayment time	1866-28.4	2521-38.3	2195-33.3
(8) Government delays in paying claims against defaulters	2065-31.9	1699-26.2	2717-41.9
(9) Too much unnecessary paperwork	.3835-57.9	2374-35.9	413- 6.2
(10) Other programs for student assistance are more efficient	520 - 8.5	865-14.2	4712-77.3
(11) Other (please specify):	241-73.2	20- 6.0	69-20.8
	<u>. </u>	· , `	1

26b. Of the factors mentioned above, what are the two most important disincentives to your institution, in order of importance?

- (a) 1-40%, 9-22%, 4-10%, 246-7.8%,
- (b) 9-19%, 4-17.8%; 1-16.5%, 2-11%,

27a. Does your institution have an association with a particular educational institution such that many or all of the school's students receive their GSLP loans through your institution?

184-2.7% Yes
6560-97.3% No (End of Questionaire)

27b. If "Yes," indicate the nature of that relationship: (Mark all that apply)

School conducts a large amount of its banking activities with this lender,

Both lender and school are affiliates of a common parent company.

No common ownership exists, but school regularly refers students to this lender.

No common ownership exists, and no regular referral relationship exists, but this lender restricts loans to or gives systematic preference to students of specific schools.

33 Other (specify):

27c. About what percentage of your GSLP loans made during 1973 went to this school(s)?

	. 53	.8	_%)			
	166	Not	applicable	(explain):	.		·
۴	22		•			•	

THANK YOU.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION IN COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

APPENDIX D
LIST OF SAMPLE LENDERS



APPENDIX D

LIST OF SAMPLE LENDERS

This appendix presents a list of the 784 GSLP lenders that were selected by the sampling process described earlier. The OE GSLP lender file was the source of the lender universe and accompanying data. The lenders on this list were the group to which RMC mailed survey questionnaires and follow-up requests.

The list presented below is ordered by lender type and within type by ZIP Code. The column headings have the following meaning:

Type: Lender type as assigned and used by OE

- 1. National Banks
- 2. State Banks (FDIC)
- 3. State Banks (Non-FDIC)
- 4. Federal Savings and Loan
- 5. State Savings and Loan
 - 6. Federal Credit Union
 - 7. State Credit Union

- *8. Mutual Savings Banks
- 9. Insurance Companies
- 10. Academic Institutions--Higher Education
- 11. Direct State Lenders
- (12. Other
- 13. Academic Institutions-Vocational Education

Number: Lender (or vendor) identification number assigned by OE.

Name and Address: As on GSLP master file: same as used by OE for regular mailing to lenders.

Loans: Number of borrowers who had become liable for repayment of GSLP loans (including paid in full). This was calculated by RMC from the loan status codes on the GSLP master file in January 1974.

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APPENDIX E .

LENDER SITE VISIT SUMMARY

APPENDIX E

LENDER SITE VISIT SUMMARY

RMC made site visits to 38 lenders, which are described and discussed in Chapter 3. This appendix presents a single sheet summary for each lender summarizing major lender characteristics, major good points, and major problem areas observed by RMC interviewers or described by lender officials. The individual lender names are not included because of the need to maintain the confidentiality of specific responses and opinions. The default rate, number of defaulters and borrowers in repayment were obtained from the GSLP Loan Control Master File maintained by OE.

Each summary identifies the lender type by a numerical code. These codes, as assigned and used by OE, are as follows:

- (1) National Banks
- (2) State Banks (FDIC)
- (3) State Banks (Non-FDIC)
- (4) Federal Savings and Loan
- (5) State Savings and Loan
- (6) Federal Credit Union
- (7) State Credit Union
- (8) Mutual Savings Banks
- (9) Insurance Companies
- (10) Academic Institutions--Higher Education
- (11) Direct State Lenders
- (12) Other
- (13) Academic Institutions -- Vocational Education

LENEAR SIGH VISIT NO.: 2	Default rate Number of defaulters Number of berrewers attaining repayment status Londer type State Fotal assets Fotal assets	Money sent to school Money sent to school	Many vocational loans Wany vocational loans Weak eligibility standards Highly unorganized portfolio High-pressure salesmanship Large portfolio Too much paper work - No responsibility on schools Slow default payments by OE
LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: \1	Default rate	Nome Notice:	Many, vocational students Many, vocational students Poor school No credif checks Lack of due diligence Lax lending policy No student contact

LENDER SITE VISIT SUMMARY

LENDER SITE VISIT SUMMRY

LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 3	LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 4
Default rate 90 Number of defaulters 90 Number of borrowers attaining repayment status 187 Lender type 8 State 8 State New York 70tal assets Not available	Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers attain Lender type State Total assets
COOD POINTS:	GOOD POINTS:

189

PROBLEM APÉAS:

Report data to state Excessive paper work No restriction on borrowers Large portfolio

36 \$ 254 702 13 California \$433,606	
uning repayment status	
LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 4 Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers attain Lender type State Tothl assets	GCOD POINTS: Small portfolio Credit checks

Strong on public service
Program statistics.
Disbursements made in name of school and student
Repayment terms made in person

PROBLEM AREAS:

Vocational loans Lax lending policy Many dropouts from school

LENDER SITE VISIT SUMARY

1	Default rate Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers attaining repayment status Lender type State State Total assets	GXNU POINTS: Experience No freshmen No vocational students Flexible repayment policy		PROBLIM AREAS: No interest in due diligence period Decentralized Poor records Large portfolio No customer relationship requirement Manual record-keeping Slowness of OE on decisions and notification Slow claim payment Slow pre-claim assistance by OE Too much paper work High cost of money Student tracking
	Default rate	GOOD POINTS: Experience in GSLP Less than 10 percent of portfolio from any school Customer relationship required Helpful state agency	190	PROBLEM AREAS: Large portfolio Student status tracking No co.signer



LENDER SITE VISIT SURVARY

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	it rate		Number o Number o Lender t
S C	State	,000	State . Fotal as
0000	6000 POLITIS:		STATION CICOD
32	Centralized (recently)	<u>-</u>	Computer
123	Limits on first year students No cross borrowing	•	
	Credit checks Coupon booklets	_	
		<u> </u>	
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1 9 87	1.0		
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PROB	PROBLEM AREAS:	-	PROBLEM ARE
ZEC	Large portfolio - Had many proprietary loans until two years ago No banking relationship with borrower		Lax lend Many voo No stude
	Lack of information and guidelines from OE Retroactive OE decisions		Large po

LENDER SITE VISIT SUMMRY

	7.5		<u> </u>	
224 1,524 7,012 5 California \$418,406,000	7			
ing repayment status				
Default rate	COD)) POLNTS: Computerized		PROBLEM AREAS: Lax lending policy Many vocational loans No student contact Large portfolio Slow claims payment No credit checks Retroactive policy by OE	j.
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LENDER SITE VISIT SENARY

	LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 9		LINDER S
	Default rate 563 Number of defaulters 4,092 Number of borrowers attaining repayment status 12 Lender type 554 State Not available	,	Defau Numbo Numbo Jenga State Tota
→ `	GOOD-POINTS:	· I	0000 PO
	Credit checks Coupon books		Mont Exit Mone Bank Expe
188	19	•	
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	PROBLEM AREAS:		PROBLEM
• •	Many vocational loans Large portfolio No student contact No co-makers	30	Voce No l
	Slow claim payments		700 100

status	
refault rate	
Default rate	

M AREAS:

Vocational students mostly Large portfolio No bank/borrower contact 'No credit checks Slow loan approval rate Too much paper, work

LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 11	· ·	LENDER SITE VISIT NO. 7 12	•
Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers attaining repayment status Lender type State Total assets	168 517 3,229 2 Pennsylvania Not available	Default rate	15 \$ 96 655 1 Puerto.Rico \$7,403,082
GOOD POINTS:		(0000 POINTS:	
Experience Profitable Customer relationship Assistance from-state agency Vocațional student checks to school Computerized		Small portfolio	
193	and the same of th		
	E 1		17
PROBLEM AREAS: Slow claims payment Large portfolio	The state of the s	PIRO	
Many vocational students		Student tracking High cost of money Excessive paper work	
	•		

LENDER SITE VISIT SUNVARY

	LENDLE SITE VISIT NO.: 14	Default rate	• GCOD POINTS:	Devoted staff Only juniors and aboye Customer requirement No vocational loans	Inner subsidy requirement Flexible repayment policy Computerized records			PROBLEM AREAS:	Decentralized Not enough effort by OE Slow payment of claims				
•		134 173 1,528 4 California , \$2,318,493,172	-		•		The state of the s					f	
	VISIT NO.: 13	Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers attaining repayment status Lender type State Total assets	GOOD POINTS:	Personal interview Centralized		19		PROBLEM AREAS:	Lax lending policy Many vocational students No account relationship with bank Student tracking	loo much paper work Slow claim payments Slow loan approvals	7	*	



LENDER SITE VISIT SUNIARY

LENDER SITE VISIT SUNNARY

		9\$ 211 2,244 1			t.	3 \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \		o			
	₹°	aining repayment status		/ ional students olems							
	LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 16	Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers atta Eender type State Total assets	COOD POINTS:	equire icipat tion c track		 	 TROBLEM AREAS:	Large portfolio Help approval in loop 'Slow claim payment Too much paper work			
		10% 555 5,346 4 Minnesota \$904,611,072							· · · · ·	•	
***	•	repayment status			W.			v			
ł	LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 15	Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers attaining Lender type State Total assets	GOOD POINTS:	Computerized Few vocational students		195	PROBLEM AREAS:	Check to student ° Very little personal contact Lax lending policy No account requirement Slow claims navment	Tracking students Lax attitude of students	•	



LENDER SITE VISIT SUNNARY

LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 17	LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 18	
Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers attaining repayment status Lender type State Total assets State Not available	Default rate	9% 92 1,022 2 Massachusetts %1,507,443,859
GOOD POINTS:	GOOD POINTS:	
Close relationship with school student, aid State residence restriction Sophomore or higher No varional loans	Centralized No upper limit on portfolio Customers only Residency requirement Personal interviews	*
Good records		
,		·
, 193		#1. #1.
PROBILEM AREAS:	PROBLEM AREAS:	. •
Decentralized No banking relationship Student tracing problems	No co-signer No credit checks Too much paper work	
Of interest payment		
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LENDER SITE VISIT SUNDARY

LENDER SITE VISIT SUMMARY

LENDER SITE VIS	Default rare Number of da Number of Ed Lender type State Total assets	GOOD POINTS:	Checks to so		•	PROBLEM AREAS:	Large portfo Students atti Students reti	
•	8\$ 1,119 13,312 1 California \$11,767,725,000		• • •		đ			
	ient status			•		•	*.	
.: 19	ers rs attaining repayment	6	hip '				relations	
LENDER SITE VISIT NO.:	Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers Lender type State Total assets	GOOD POINTS:	Contraited Computerized Account relationship Age limit		197	PROBLEM AREAS:	Cross borrowing Government public relations Student tracking	

Dofault rare

Dofault rare

Number of defaulters

Number of Edrawers attaining repayment status

Londer type

State

Total assets

Checks to schools directly

BLEM AREAS:

Large portfolio
Students attend school out of country.
Students return to school after repayment started

LENDER SITE VISIT SURVARY

LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 22	Default rate	COOD POINTS: Long experience Low delinquent rate Centralized		PROBLIM AREAS: Too much paper work Lending rate not tied to prime Very large portfolio No co-maker Lend to freshmen High servicing man-hours High volume of vocational students Tracking students Schools take advantage of program No interest payment after default	
LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 21	s attaining repayment status	GOOD POINTS: No freshmen loans Coupon payment books Flexible repayment policy	198	PROBLEM AREAS: Large portfolio Help approyal in loop Special Telationship with vocational school shut down Excessive paper work	



LENDER SITE VISIT SURMARY

LENDER SITE VISIT SUMMRY

LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 23 Default rate	. ,	LENDER SITE V
Number of defaulters 183 Mumber of borrowers attaining repayment status . 2,868 Lender type Pennsy State	183 2,868 2 Pennsylvania \$2,348,118,000	Number of Number of Londer typ / State Totál asse
0	3	COOD POINTS:
Computerized Customer requirement Assistance from state aconcy		None
	· ·	
9	•	,
	* Q ₃	
0		
	, R	
io manurali io io io io io io io io io io io io io	m	PROBLEM AREAS Mostly voc
mentine sain	<u> </u>	
in the state of th		Poor staff
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NATE OF THE PARTY		1
minura m		

	LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 24	
	Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers attaining repayment Londer type State Total assets	54
7	GOOD POINTS:	

*		
or .		The state of the s

3:

vocational loans
ding level students
f due diligence
ding policy
records

LENDER SITE VISIT SUNARY

	LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 25	LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 26	
	s attaining repayment status	Default rate 7 Number of defaulters	55 71 1,402
	Lender type	Londer type	111inois S16,440,266,000
•	GOOD POINTS:	GOOD POINTS:	
•	Devoted staff Small operation Communitarized	Small staff 'Long experience Most loans to bank customers	•
	Only sophomores and above Bank account requirement Money sent to school	Nost loans to sophomore or higher Few vocational loans Conservative philosophy	
	Low default rate Flexible repayment policy	Low definquency rate Low default rate:	
1	Due diligence Good relationship with OE Few vocational students	Up-to-date records Low servicing man-hours	• 3
.96	Centralized	Centralized	10 m
9			F
ነበሶ			
· /	PROBLEM AREAS:	PROBLEM AREAS:	9
	Tracking students * * Rapport with schools High cast of money	IGLP in approval loop No co-makers Slow conversion to pay-out	
`,		Student tracking	6

Not enough public relations by OE

LENDER SITE VISIT SUMMARY

9	LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 27		٠		,	
				J		
	Number of defaulters			. W		
	attai		•	ټ.	1,402	
	Lender type'	,	•	7	٠	
	State		•	Ζ.	faryland	
	Total assets			Ġ	764,664,044	
					_	

GOOD POINTS:

Only bank customers No portfolio limit

PROBLEM AREAS:

Large portfolio Disbursements to students Excessive paper work

LENDER SITE VISIT SUNMARY

4% 189 % 4,821 13 Texas Not available	
Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers attaining repayment status I ender type State Total assets	Money to school

PROBLEM AREAS:

Only vocational students
Lax lending policy
No student contact
Poor records
Complex organization
High-pressure salesmen

LENDER SITE VISIT SUMARY

LENDER SITE VISIT SURVERY

FLENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 29	LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 30	•
Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers attaining repayment status Lender type State Total assets 48 2,428 California 54,768,607,000	Default rate	2% -565 23,649 13 111inois \$46,167,651.
Centralized Nonthly billing	Credit check * Small average loan Fracks graduates Due diligence Good staff	
198		
20		
EXOBLEM AREAS: Large portfolio Lar lending policy No account requirement Many vocational loans Poorly organized portfolio Student tracking Slow claim peyment	PROBLEM AREAS: All vocational loans Large portfolio No student contact Lax lending policy No co-maker Slow claim payments	
		6 2



LENDER SITE VIŞIT SUNMARY

Texas \$285,000,000

LEADER SITE VISIT NO.: 31		<u>11</u>	6
Default rate	4		
Number of borrowers attaining repayment status 716	9	•	
	,		
	Mary land	_	
	\$997,844,319		

Lender type . State Total assets

NDER SITE VISIT NO.: 32

COOD POINTS:

Devoted staff
Long experience
Require co-maker
Customer relationship required
Siminar for borrowers
Heavy applicant screening
Only accredited schools

Good records Money sent to school -Student status changes reported Due diligençe

Along experience No vocational loans Computerized

GOOD POINTS:

203

No credit checks

PROBLEM AREAS:

PROBLEM AKE	No credi	Large po	Slow loa	Slow cla
1		1	/ 	

OBLEM AREAS:

No credit checks Large portfolio Slow loan approval Slow claims payment

LENDER SITE VISIT SUNDARY

LENDER SITE VISIT SUMARY

	Less than 18 3 3 repayment status 2 2 2 8 2 8 2 8 3 3 3 7 ,072 3 133, 317,072		except freshmen 1 out documents (in English)
62	Default rate	Checks to schools directly Repayment interviews	PROBLEM AREAS: Large portfolio No borrower restrictions ext No student interviews Out of country students No credit checks Fogeign schools—wen't fill
	Less than 18 6 2,303 12 Washington, D.C.		
ŀ	LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 33 Default rate Number of defaulters Number of borrowers attaining repayment status Lender type State Total assets	Computer supporte (Computer supporte (Close to OE (Location)) Degree programs only (Notarized statement of attendance Good claims payment Bank fund reduces cost	Earge multi-bank portfolio Large multi-bank portfolio Problems locating borrowers Low interest rate



LENDER SITE VISIT SANARY

TOTAL STILL SERVING

LENDER SITE VISIT NO.: 36	Less than 1% Default rate 13,143 13,143 Inlinois State Not available Lendrage Total assets	Centralized Credit check Paper loans!! Absorb most defaults	PROBLEM AREAS: All vocational loans Large portfolio Lax lending policy Too much paper work	
***	status:			

LINDER SITE VISÍT NO. 38		Computerized Competition Reject poor portfolios Quarterly status checks on students Profit-making FROSLEM AREAS: Large Volume Not, enough information from CE	
LEWDER SITE VISIT NO.: 37	ιΛ ¹⁰	Small portfolio Account requirement Minimal tracking problems Minimal tracking problems No credit checks Too much paper work	

